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WHAT'S YOUR MAD MEN DRINK?

PAGE 30

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Calgary metro

THE TOKYO LOOK
Page 31

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

High 18°C/Low 3°C Partly cloudy



Surf's up in Calgary

Surfers gather in a pool to play water polo on surfboards. The contact sport is catching on, and local players are hoping to get enough interest for a tournament. See story, page 13. CONTRIBUTED

Budget fears for workers

ECONOMY

More woes expected for front-line jobs in premier's address

Jeremy Nolaïs
Metro | Calgary

Alberta is already struggling to match teacher and public-service staffing levels to rapid population growth in recent years — and that's even before the province introduces what's expected to be a rigid 2015 budget Thursday.

In a televised address Tuesday, Premier Jim Prentice did appear to walk back a claim from his finance minister that departmental spending would be slashed five per cent in a bid to close a

\$7-billion financial gap.

Instead, the premier said the budget would be "holding the line on government expenditures."

Still, Alberta's population is expected to continue growing with 80,000 new residents this year, or nearly two per cent.

But a Metro analysis that used the latest government population data, released last week, and membership figures from union groups found front-line worker levels haven't kept pace with growth.

In 2010, there was one teacher for roughly every 108 Albertans and every 16 students enrolled in the public or Catholic systems. Nowadays, that ratio has grown to one teacher for every 115 Albertans and every 17 students.

The Alberta Teachers' Association had said a five per cent cut would see 2,500 educator positions lost, but even the premier's suddenly rosier outlook

failed to inspire the organization's president Mark Ramsankar.

"A zero budget is going to impact classrooms. It's going to directly impact service that can be provided to students in Alberta," he said.

The ratio of front-line government workers has also lagged, according to data from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees. The organization didn't have data for 2010, but in 2009 there was one employee for every 169 Albertans, but that has now bulged to one for every 185 residents.

AUPE President Guy Smith said there are hundreds of government jobs covered under his organization's umbrella, everything from courtroom staff to social-service workers and highway maintenance crews.

He said the average resident comes in contact with an AUPE member "at least daily."

More budget coverage, page 4.

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IN BRIEF

Students 'devastated' by theft of iPads, MacBook from Airdrie school

Airdrie police are working to track down a thief who targeted technology at a school on March 20.

A release from RCMP said that at roughly 3:30 a.m., officers received a complaint of a break-in at C.W. Perry School in southwest Airdrie.

More than 100 iPad Minis and six MacBook Air laptops were stolen, and RCMP say the theft has "devastated" both the school and students, as the pieces of technology were considered an "integral part of the learning process."

The Airdrie RCMP and the Calgary Fingerprint Identification Section are investigating. METRO

Police warning public about drug fentanyl after spate of deaths in 2014

Calgary police and Alberta Health Services are sounding the alarm about fentanyl after the Calgary health zone saw 29 deaths in 2014 where the drug was "at very least" a contributing factor.

Known as "a lethal synthetic opioid analgesic," fentanyl is roughly 100 times more toxic than morphine, and while it's not a new drug, police say it has "gained prevalence" on Calgary streets in recent years.

According to a release from Calgary police, in 2014 there were 36 seizures of fentanyl in the city.

METRO

Hooters closing both its Calgary locations

CULTURE

Chain not able to keep up with changing tastes, expert believes



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Hooters restaurants in Calgary will be closing at the end of the month, as the trend toward cleavage-heavy food service seems to have fizzled in the city.

After 17 years on Macleod Trail SW and 14 years just off Barlow Trail NE, both Hooters locations in Calgary will close on March 31, a local restaurant manager confirmed Wednesday.

This comes after the earlier closure of the Tilted Kilt Pub and Eatery at the corner of 17 Avenue and 4 Street SW, a U.S.-based chain that made a splash in 2012 when it announced it would be bringing its scantily clad servers — dressed typically in tied-off white shirts, bare midriffs and short kilts — to Calgary.

At that same time, Maclean's magazine heralded the rise of chain "breastaurants" in Canada as "the hottest new trend in casual dining."

But that trend appears to



Calgary Hooters restaurants will close March 31 after nearly two decades in the city. FACEBOOK



The Hooters model wasn't really built around consent-based, sex-positive culture.

University of Calgary professor Rebecca Sullivan

have been a passing fad, in Calgary at least, something that comes as little surprise to Rebecca Sullivan.

"The Hooters model wasn't really built around consent-based, sex-positive culture, and Calgary is doing a lot of work to create a consent-based, sex-positive culture," said Sullivan, a University of Calgary professor who specializes in feminist media and cultural studies.

For Skye Atoa, who described himself as a regular customer at the northeast Calgary Hooters since it opened, the change

in tastes was apparent.

"This place is pretty quiet," he said Wednesday at his regular watering hole. "It used to

be pretty busy, but it died off. I think people are eating healthier."

Sullivan said Calgary's changing attitudes toward women and sexuality has been largely positive, but noted it's also complex.

"There is a growing awareness of the persistence of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination, and of rape culture, in society. There is a rising chorus of voices saying that kind of a sexual culture is not funny and it's not fun," she said. WITH FILES FROM HELEN PIKE

JOBS

Closure of CYOC called an 'injustice'

It may be an indicator of cuts contained in Thursday's provincial budget.

Representatives from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees are upset about the paring back of the Calgary Young Offender Centre and the closure of the Calgary office of the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

Erez Raz, vice-president of the AUPPE, called the changes a "huge injustice to Albertans" and said it may result in a minimum loss of 35 to 45 jobs.

However, the biggest impact may be on offenders housed at the CYOC.

"These people are going to be away from their families," Raz said. "A family can no longer just come to Calgary to visit their family member — the young offender — they're going to have to find a way to go to Edmonton, so that puts a cost on them, as well."

Those housed at the CYOC will be transferred to the Edmonton Young Offenders Centre, but the province vows the centre will remain open for arrest processing and reintegration programs.

Clients dealing with Calgary's Maintenance Enforcement Program will also have to work through a centrally located office in Edmonton.

Raz said the lives of their members employed at the facilities have been "turned upside down." MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO



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5

THINGS TO WATCH FOR IN THURSDAY'S BUDGET

The province will deliver what's widely believed will be a lean budget today, as Alberta deals with sunken oil prices. We've taken a look at 5 things you should be watching for as the province outlines its fiscal priorities. **METRO**

**1 Will dollars for transit come?**

How long you have to wait before taking a dedicated rapid-transit bus to the southeast or an LRT ride up Centre Street North will likely depend on the details in Thursday's budget. Those proposed but still unfunded transit projects will depend heavily on provincial dollars. Premier Jim Prentice announced a \$400-million provincewide boost to the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) fund earlier in March, but Mayor Naheed Nenshi said the precise impact on Calgary wouldn't be clear until the budget details are revealed. Nenshi added he hopes new provincial funding will "accelerate" the city's transit projects.

2 Post-secondary cuts part-deux?

Warnings of a multi-billion-dollar shortfall rang all too familiar for post-secondary advocates, who fear they could be in store for another massive cut after taking a nine per cent hit in once-promised Campus Alberta funding in 2013. Talk of "holding the line" on spending from the premier in a televised address Tuesday hasn't diminished fears much. As evidence of the repercussions of 2013's cuts, both the University of Calgary and University of Alberta still are three per cent short of the funding they received in 2012-13.

**3 How much will Albertans be dinged for health care?**

Premier Jim Prentice dropped a big reveal in his Tuesday televised speech, stating Albertans will be asked to "contribute directly" to the health system. The revelation has prompted outcry from the opposition, who point to long emergency-room waits and shoddy infrastructure as proof that the province shouldn't be charging more for the service provided. What remains a mystery is exactly how much will be charged and whether the fee will apply to all.

**4 Education money is lagging behind growth — will that continue?**

The province has continued to put more money into primary education, but not at the rate of student growth. Last year saw an overall increase of 3.2 per cent in educational spending, but the actual per-student grant from the province remained flat. The Calgary Board of Education has said that its dollars-per-student have declined steadily over the past four years. Student growth is expected to simmer a bit in light of the economic downturn, but advocacy groups have said even a zeroing of funding would amount to a cut.

5 Funding for cancer centre?

Plans for a long-awaited, \$1.3-billion cancer centre in Calgary could finally be set in motion Thursday. Originally the facility was to be built in its entirety at Foothills Medical Centre, but Premier Jim Prentice told reporters last week that at least some of the development could be moved to the new South Health Campus. Prentice said a split of the design would allow the clinical side of cancer treatment to be separated from the research side.

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Peter Lougheed Centre patient Douglas Lucier, left, and friend Robert Storozuk are among those venting about a new health-care fee expected to be rolled out in Thursday's budget. ANNA BROOKS/METRO

Expected health fee brings on backlash

BUDGET

Premier says levy won't hurt low-income Albertans

Premier Jim Prentice said Wednesday that the health levy he will announce in Thursday's budget is not going to be an undue burden on lower-income Albertans and will go ahead, regardless of its unpopularity.

Health premiums polled as one of the least popular choices when the government surveyed Albertans recently about how it should address its revenue shortfalls, with just 27 per cent of respondents endorsing the idea.

The idea was less supported

than creating a sales tax, long a no-go proposal in Alberta, which drew support from 32 per cent of respondents.

A graduated income tax in place of the current flat tax was much more popular, at 58 per cent, while increasing corporate taxes, which Prentice has ruled out, was supported by 70 per cent of respondents.

Prentice said the province's dire fiscal situation does not give the government the luxury of choosing more popular options.

"We clearly face a series of very tough choices," he said following a speech to the World Heavy Oil Congress in Edmonton Wednesday.

He said the new health levy will drive home the cost of the actual system.

Still, low-income Albertans

“There are no easy solutions in any of this.”
Premier Jim Prentice

feared their household budgets will take a hit.

Douglas Lucier, a patient at the Peter Lougheed Centre, said after three back surgeries and taking care of a child with cerebral palsy and autism, new health-care fees would be devastating for his family.

"The health care here is already bad enough," Lucier said. "We're low-income, so I don't think fees are a good idea. I don't agree at all."

Sandra Azocar, executive director for Friends of Medicare,

questioned how much of the revenue generated by the expected fee will actually go toward health care.

"How much of that levy will actually go toward covering the \$7-billion shortfall right now and how much is actually going in the health care?" she asked, adding the Health Ministry's portfolio has been "grossly mismanaged."

Prentice emphasized that he was aiming for a more "progressive" system than the old premiums, which were criticized because they charged all people the same amount, regardless of income.

Those premiums were cancelled in 2009.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON
WITH FILES FROM ANNA BROOKS AND JEREMY NOLAIS

HEALTH

Premiums' return could benefit planning

If Alberta returns to having residents pay health premiums, it could offer an unexpected and unintentional benefit for health-care planning, according to Chris Smith, chief operating officer at the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute.

"There is a benefit here that hasn't actually entered into the discussion," he said. "When you administer the health-care pre-

mium program, by necessity, you have to count the people participating in that program, and that data is incredibly important and powerful for future planning."

He said that when the health-care premium program was axed in 2009, they noticed a "small but significant" decline in the normal trends of the population, in terms of death or migra-

tion. Smith suspects that people stopped alerting Alberta Health when someone passed away or left the province without the "financial incentive," leaving the data suggesting that they're alive but not accessing health care.

Currently, the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute is working on long-term plans for hip and knee replacements. By analyzing the current number

of replacements or failed devices, they plan for the number of surgeons, hospital beds and operating rooms required for the next 15 to 30 years.

"We know that people are under-reporting migration," said Smith. "That can skew the results, and the further ahead we plan, the results get more significant."

JENNIFER FRIESE/FOR METRO

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1 MASE AT THE REPUBLIK

Friday: The rapper-turned-preacher-rapper is on the comeback trail again having retired from music on and off over the past 15 years. Once the star of Sean "Diddy" Combs' Bad Boy Records label, Ma\$e has influenced such current hip hop greats such as Kanye West and Drake.

2 OK GO AT MACEWAN HALL

Friday: Known for its catchy choruses and imaginative music videos (the award-winning Here It Goes Again has been viewed more than 50 million times on YouTube), the four-piece Chicago band also puts on an entertaining and energetic live show. It is on tour in support of its excellent new record, Hungry Ghosts.

3 VINCE NEIL AT THE DEER-FOOT INN & CASINO

Saturday: Motley Crue may have called it quits (for now) but you can be sure former lead singer Vince Neil will trot out a number of Crue hits during his Deerfoot Casino show as well as some tracks from his three solo albums.

4 THE HAUNTING AT VERTIGO THEATRE

Saturday: Vertigo Theatre's latest production is a spooky melodrama based on the short ghost stories of Charles Dickens. Stafford Perry stars as an employee of a book dealer encounters strange goings on while assessing the worth of a remote mansion's library. Vertigotheatre.com



Mat Mailandt (centre) is producing the inaugural Fresh Notes Festival of Musical Comedy, featuring eight improv groups from across Canada including his Calgary/Toronto hip hop troupe, Notorious. The festival runs until March 29. CONTRIBUTED

Where music and comedy collide

BACKSTAGE PASS

Musical comedy grabs spotlight at new festival



Lisa Wilton
Metro | Calgary

Mat Mailandt's first exposure to hip hop was House of Pain's 1992 hit, Jump Around.

Fast forward to 2015 and the 36-year-old comedian is the director and producer of the hilarious musical comedy troupe, Notorious.

"Jump Around was fast, fun and could get an entire room jumping," he says. "That incredible energy is what I try to bring to my performance to this day."

Notorious formed in 2011 after Mailandt and fellow Calgary improv performers Ryan Hildebrandt, Ryan Sheedy and Aaron Ranger decided to mix their love of hip hop with improvisational comedy.

"We like to call Notorious the illegitimate love child between hip hop and improv," Mailandt says.

He said the troupe put itself through a so-called of hip hop boot camp, rehearsing for hours on end to perfect its freestyle rap skills. "We wanted to put together something that the audience can enjoy."

The hard work paid off and after two years of honing its skills, Notorious debuted its show at a local improv festival.

"It was a really big success instantly," Mailandt recalls.

Mailandt performs as Lil Pay-

+ IF YOU GO

The Fresh Notes Festival features eight improv companies from across Canada, including The Kinkonauts, Loose Moose Theatre and Obviously Improv.

Tickets are \$10 per show and can be purchased online at notimprov.com/festival

ne, a brash, braggadocio gangsta rapper, who is a mix of rap superstar Lil Wayne and Sacha Baron Cohen's ridiculous Ali G character. Much of the comedy stems from Lil Payne's desperate attempts to hide the fact he's just

a suburban dad off stage.

"What we do is kind of an homage to hip hop," he says. "It's satire, but we're actually fans so we want to do a decent rap show as well."

Mailandt relocated to Toronto this past summer to pursue his comedy career, but he hasn't left Notorious behind.

Notorious East has also found a solid audience in Toronto, while Notorious West continues to perform out of Calgary.

Mailandt is back in Calgary for a month producing the inaugural Fresh Notes Festival of Musical Comedy, which runs until March 29.

"The musical comedy scene in Calgary is really blossoming at the moment," he says.

"I thought I'd harness some of that energy and give people a place to perform."

MUSIC Windigo to appear at Nickle theatre



You can hear Windigo melodic indie pop this Saturday. CONTRIBUTED

Strumming his guitar on stage in front of an audience of unimpressed metalheads, Anthony Kameka was feeling somewhat under appreciated.

It was one of Kameka's first shows with his new band Windigo, and the group's melodic indie pop sound wasn't winning over the crowd, which had come to see Montreal death metal act, Dark Century.

"I've kind of blocked it out of my mind," says Kameka, wincing slightly. "The crowd didn't know how to react to this band standing in front of them singing about love and stuff."

That was three years ago and since then the band has had better luck with landing on bills more suited to its well-crafted, catchy songs.

"A lot of it has to do with networking your way in," says bass player and vocalist Jen Severtson.

"At first it's hard to start establishing those relationships, but it gets easier over time. It's kind of like a big spider web. Everybody knows each other in the music scene."

Windigo, which is rounded out by guitarist Barry Mason and drummer Mitch Cooper, plays the Nickle Theatre at Mount Royal University on Saturday with Locomotive Ghost. It plays at Broken City on April 9.

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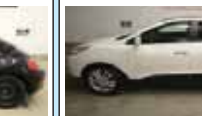

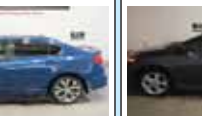


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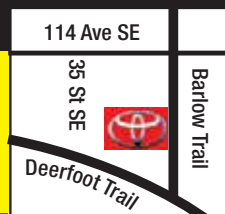
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ASIRT investigators biased, lawyer alleges

OVERSIGHT

Police team says suggestions are 'inaccurate' and 'incorrect'



A prominent Edmonton lawyer is questioning the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team's (ASIRT) ability to pursue investigations in an unbiased fashion.

Thomas Engel, a criminal defence lawyer and chair of the Alberta Criminal Trial Lawyers' Association policing committee, said he has concerns ASIRT may be favouring police agencies during its investigations.

"They say they have civilian investigators, but they're not civilian investigators, they're former police officers," he said.

"Yes, they are civilian staff, but what they don't mention is that they used to be police officers and many of them — if not all of them — were



Susan Hughson, executive director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, speaks at a March 17 news conference about the fatal shooting of Anthony Heffernan. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

police officers with Alberta police services.

"These are competent investigators, but I have noticed bias in the investigations."

Engel said he wants to see more civilian oversight at ASIRT as, in his opinion, some investigations have been "sloppy" and "negligent."

"ASIRT is a good idea — it's a very good idea," he said. "It is better than it used to be, when (police) would just investigate themselves ... but it's not working and something has to be done to scrutinize these investigations."

ASIRT executive director,

Susan Hughson, however, said Engel's claims are unfounded.

While she wouldn't respond directly to the remarks, she said any suggestion that ASIRT cannot conduct its investigations objectively would be "inaccurate and incorrect."

"The suggestion is there should be civilian oversight, and there is civilian oversight," she said. "That is me; that is my role as executive director."

She also noted that while ASIRT investigators include both officers taken from typical duty for specialized service and former investigators who

are now government employees, they all answer directly to her.

"I am not a member of law enforcement. I have never worked as a member of law enforcement, and I've actually never offered or worked with the police even in a legal function," said the former Crown prosecutor.

"Crown council is an officer of the court," she said. "They are required to do what is just and right in any circumstances and they don't act for the police, they don't act for the victim — they act for the community."

+ BACKGROUND

Investigations

Allegations of bias resurfaced following investigations by ASIRT into three officer-involved shootings in one week, two of which occurred in Calgary on March 16 and March 21, and one in Wetaskiwin on March 24.

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SUSPICIOUS DEATH

Man remembered as 'loving' and 'caring'



Morgan Modjeski
Metro|Calgary

A man whose body was found near Canada Olympic Park in what police are calling a suspicious death on Wednesday morning will be remembered as a "loving" and "caring" individual.

The man was identified as Mohameddek Ali Mohamud,

a 25-year-old member of Calgary's Somali community, by Abdi Hersy, a Calgary Imam, late Wednesday evening.

Hersy said the entire community is in mourning.

"He was very, very loved," Hersy said of Mohamud. "He was loving, caring and somebody who was always happy."

Hersy said he spent several hours with the man's family on Wednesday, noting he'll be remembered as a "hard-work-

ing" person with "a big dream ahead of him" as he was preparing to return to school to pursue a career in the trades.

"They're devastated," he said of the family. "We're all devastated."

Now, Calgary police are seeking the public's help in determining the series of events leading up to the death.

Homicide detectives responded to the 8800 block of Olympic Way SW on Wednes-

day morning, collecting evidence from an area near Canada Olympic Park.

Acting Duty Insp. Paul Wyatt said officers were called around 2:30 a.m. after a passerby on a late-night excursion saw the body.

When emergency responders arrived on scene, Mohamud was found dead.

Nearby resident Andy Ming called the situation "disturbing."



Stacey Morgan holds up her team's wired-up bustier. It's not quite complete but, when finished, the piece will light up and illuminate custom-cut pattern embellishments on the garment. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Wearable technology

FASHION

Garments interact with apps, environment



Helen Pike
Metro|Calgary

It's a night of bright lights, big ideas, and this year it's more interactive than ever before.

Make Calgary's wearable technology fashion show is coming down to the wire.

"This year we have about 30 pieces that will go down the runway with 14 teams from Calgary," said Maria Hoover, co-founder of Make Calgary. "Wearable technology has really become almost like an interface, something as the technology gets smaller, we'll be wearing it."

Designers and their engineers are hard at work, measuring twice and wiring once to assemble their complex garments and execute concepts before the big night on March 28.

This year, co-founder Shannon Hoover said artists and engineers are incorporating sensors and lights into garments, enabling the clothing to interact with its surroundings.

Kenzie Housego, a designer with Phi Illuminated Designs, said one of their accessories, a purse, will have the ability to interact with wearers through an app.

Users will be able to change the colour with their phones, making the LED matrix masked by shimmering rhinestones flash text and colour.

Housego and Stacey Morgan, designers working with engineer Sophie Amin, are hitting the runway for the second time — with a few tricks between the seams.

Their vintage esthetic incorporates technology subtly to create more wearable looks.

"We're kind of inspired by shapes in geometry that are found naturally in the world around us," Housego said.

"We've been working on this for three months, and we're still working right now. It's a lot of work with the programming to figure things out. You want to make sure that the programming is done correctly before you start putting it into the garments."

Shannon Hoover said the goal with wearable technology is to augment the wearer's experience, without encroaching on how we interact with the world around us.

"Wearable technology will allow us to interact with technology just by doing the things we normally do," Hoover said.

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Surf polo catches a wave

SPORTS

Popularity of indoor hybrid activity is booming



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

It's a different kind of board game, one that's making a splash at pools in Calgary, the only city worldwide to play indoor surf polo.

Inspired by the outdoor Hawaiian game, surfers in Calgary have retrofitted traditional rules, with a Canadian twist.

The hybrid game combines surfing and water polo to help landlocked wave lovers keep fit during the off-season before they head to the coast or local rivers to catch some serious waves.

"We teach river surfing lessons in the spring and summer when the weather is nice," said, Jacob Kelly Quinlan, owner of Rocky Mountain River Surfing. "Surf polo is an off-season trainer



Hop on a surf board and play water polo. That's what a team of Calgarians is doing, and they hope the sport catches on in the city. CONTRIBUTED

for us, it keeps us paddle fit ... but it's kind of grown beyond that now."

Most of the surfers participating are ocean-wave riders and haven't been out on the river runs.

Quinlan added there's about 30 people who play in the city regularly, and about 30 more who have tried the sport one

“It's just more about the fun and the environment.”

Kelly Quinlan

or two times. But the game is growing in

popularity, he said, and soon the landlocked group hopes to see teams in Canmore and Edmonton.

Sharon Rae hadn't surfed before picking up the hybrid polo game. She went one night with a friend and was hooked. Now, she surfs in the summer and plays polo in the winter.

"I had just turned 30 and was

wanting to try some new, fun things," she said. "I went out and tried it and kept going because the exercise is great, but the community of people that come out every week and play is absolutely amazing."

Rae said surf polo is a "completely care-free, ridiculous game" and, although it's a contact sport, there's a lot of respect and courtesy in the co-ed matches.

Calgarian surfers are in a league of their own, the landlocked city with long winters force the surfers out of water. But hybrid polo players make the best of their situation by taking advantage of several pools in the city, including the dive tank in the Talisman Centre.

"We typically have 10 to 20 people in the water," Quinlan said. "It's important to emphasize the rules don't come first as far as when we're together playing, it's just more about the fun and the environment."

This is the sport's second season. It runs from late October through the beginning of December and again from February almost up until late May or early June.

+ HOW TO PLAY

Surf polo: a different kind of board game

Gameplay:

There are two 25-minute periods, each started with a "Paddle Battle" to get the ball. To be active in play, you must maintain control of your board, meaning staying on top of the board. If not, and you interfere with a play, that's called a "Dead Ball." The goal is to score on the opposite team's net.

Defence:

It's a contact sport, but no touching the other players is allowed. Players may only strike opponents' boards with an open palm in a pushing motion. No grabbing or pulling boards is allowed, but pushing and dunking of the opponent's board is allowed within the rules.

Goalie rules:

A goalie cannot whack you with his or her board. You cannot touch or interfere with the goalie's board, but goalies can use a board to block the net.

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Bhullar won't deny FOI leak

ALBERTA POLITICS

Revealed \$20k roaming charges ended a leadership bid



Jeremy Nola
Metro | Calgary

An Alberta cabinet minister isn't denying that he approached opposition parties about filing a freedom of information request for the cellphone bills racked up by one of his own colleagues.

Repeated questions have been raised in recent weeks about what role MLA Manmeet Bhullar, then the Service Alberta minister, had in seeing that \$20,243 in overseas phone call and data charges accrued by former Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk



Alberta Infrastructure Minister Manmeet Bhullar is seen at a past news conference. METRO FILE PHOTO

came to light.

Asked whether he approached both the opposition Wildrose as well as the Alberta Liberals about filing a FOIP request for the bills, Bhullar, now the infrastructure minister, responded: "In politics, there's always a lot of rumours and we often shoot the breeze."

"That doesn't make it acceptable," he added.

The questions were prompted after multiple non-Tory legislature sources said they were approached about the cellphone bills. Some identified Bhullar as being the one who broached the subject, while others would only say it was a senior cabinet minister.

Lukaszuk's bill, accrued in 2012 while he was overseas, did eventually land in the mailbox of an Edmonton Sun reporter, but that development prompted a police investigation as it was revealed that a Calgary resident's name was fraudulently used to ship the documents.

Police have since said the file has been put on hold pending any new evidence; however, the provincial privacy commissioner has launched her own probe as the cellphone bills contained sensitive information that would have been withheld through a proper freedom of information request process.

WITH FILES FROM DARREN KRAUSE

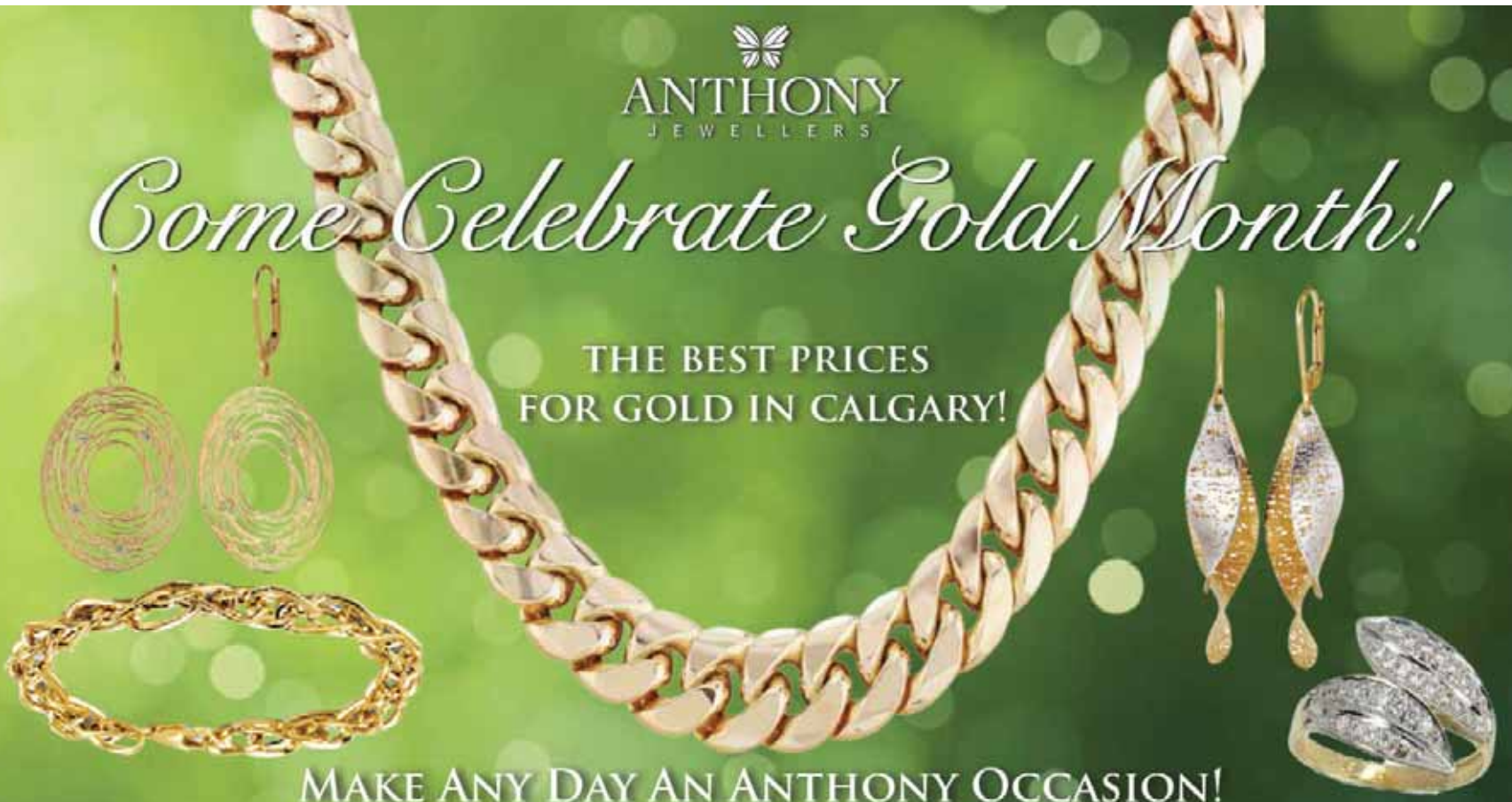
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Riley tunes resurrected

ARTS & CULTURE

Kensington park to see new performance structure



Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Sitting idle for almost 20 years, the City of Calgary is looking to revamp Riley Park by constructing a new performance structure after the old one was ripped out back in the mid-1990s.

Doug Marter, parks manager of planning and development, said he thinks a new stage would restore some vigour and vibrancy in the Kensington community.

"There was a stage in the park in the 90s, but it was literally falling apart so it was removed and has never been replaced," Marter said. "Hopefully, it will bring the community out to the park and be another opportunity to enjoy culture in Calgary."



The former Calgary Concert Band playing in a temporary vinyl band shell, which — like the original stage — deteriorated back in the early 2000s. The city's parks department is looking to construct a new performance shelter to facilitate live music in Riley Park. COURTESY ERNEST DRAKE

Ernest Drake, with the Calgary Wind Symphony (formerly known as the Calgary Concert Band), has been playing concerts in Riley Park for more than 40 years, and said a new structure would make a huge

difference for performers.

"There used to be a band shell, but it deteriorated and we've just been playing on the grass," Drake said. "I think a structure would be really great because it's tough playing out

in the sun with no protection. I just think it's important for the culture in the city — that's what our mandate is."

Marter said especially because Riley Park has more than 100 years of history behind

“Hopefully, it will bring the community back to the park and be another opportunity to enjoy culture in Calgary.”

Doug Marter

it, a new performance venue would serve to facilitate the resurgence of music and other performances in the park.

"Putting the stage back in for that purpose is part of what we would call the cultural history of the park," Marter added. "I think it's a really interesting project and it recognizes the park's cultural significance."

Still in the design stage of the project, Marter said the city hopes to have a final design completed come summer and, if all goes as planned, he would hope to see construction starting fall 2015.

IN BRIEF

Leadership hopeful accused of robocalls

The Alberta Wildrose party is investigating one of its leadership candidates for making robocalls contrary to a party directive. The party's executive committee issued a statement Tuesday night.

The committee said a leadership contender's campaign has been temporarily sanctioned and the candidate has been told to cease all calling for the duration of the campaign.

METRO

Mobile air monitoring in the oilsands cancelled

An important part of Alberta's oilsands air-monitoring program is off the road over funding issues.

In a letter to the province's pollution monitoring agency, the group responsible for air-quality testing says its mobile unit is "no longer operable."

Kevin Percy, director of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association, said there's no way to measure what's in the air during environmental emergencies.

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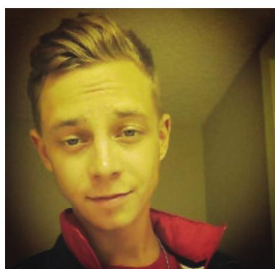
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MISSING PERSONS

Dead body's identity confirmed by family

Justin McKinnon-Blomme
POLICE HANDOUT

It appears the body found in a fir tree in Calgary's southeast neighbourhood of Acadia Wednesday is that of missing man, Justin McKinnon-Blomme.

Family confirmed his passing on social media late Wednesday afternoon, as they have been searching for the 21-year-old man — also known as Justin Rhodes — for months, since he went missing in September 2014.

On the Help Bring Justin Home Facebook page, family members

said, "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Justin."

"Justin was loved and cared for by many people. Words cannot express how grateful we are for the support of every single person."

While the Calgary Police Service have not released the identity of the man who was found Wednesday afternoon, a resident on scene told Metro they had been informed of the man's identity by emergency responders.

Det. Jack Russell said officers were called to the area around 3 p.m.

"A (woman) said she had found a body hanging in a tree," said Russell. "It was large fir tree, she hadn't been in that part of the garden since last summer and she hadn't checked the tree since then."

Police said the death does not appear to be suspicious in nature. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO



Members of the Bowness community poured over Trinity Development Group's plans for the Paskapoo Slopes at Wednesday's open house. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Open house showcases slopes plan

PASKAPOO DEVELOPMENT

Opposition concerned with loss of green space

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

They pushed back the boundaries to preserve the Balsam Poplar forests, reduced maximum height of the towers to 15 metres, and changed road alignments to preserve sensitive areas.

Greg Brown, principal planner for the Trinity project, noted 100 acres will be developed while the remaining 160 acres of green space will be dedicated to the city as a park.

However, a group called "Save the Slopes," has been lobbying to keep the land undeveloped since the last open house in June 2014.

Linda Nasset, a member of the group, said the development would be "tragic" for the city's heritage.

"I think the development itself is a great concept," said Nasset. "But this is the wrong place. This is a key area, it should be protected — the city's recognized that for years."

According to city documents, the slopes have many "environmentally significant" archaeological sites that date back more than 5,000 years.

Brown said the majority of those sites will be left untouched, but one significant site and "approximately six" minor ones are still in the developed areas.

The city held an open house in Bowness Wednesday night on the development of Calgary's Paskapoo Slopes, rekindling the debate about whether or not the green space should be built on.

The Trinity Development Group proposes to build a "Whistler-Village-style" residential-commercial project on the land just east of Canadian Olympic Park.

The group acquired the land in April 2013 from previous, private owners and plans to turn the space into a mixed-use development called Trinity Hills.

Since the last open house, Trinity has been reworking plans to fit city requirements on preserving the land and making the space a "gateway to the city."

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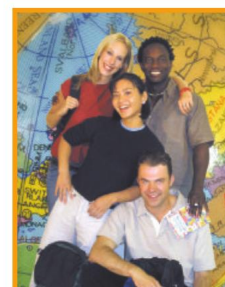
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Suspended senator Patrick Brazeau is on trial for charges of assault and sexual assault.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Witness hit Brazeau first, defence says

COURT

Suspended senator's trial to resume next week



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The woman at the centre of the sexual assault trial involving Patrick Brazeau instigated the dispute by hitting him with her clothing and hands in his bedroom, a defence lawyer said in court Wednesday.

On the third day of the suspended senator's criminal trial his lawyer, Gerard Larocque, challenged the

complainant's story of how the Feb. 7, 2013 incident started in Brazeau's Gatineau home.

"I'm going to suggest that during the moment Mr. Brazeau was talking on the phone in the bedroom you hit Mr. Brazeau with your hands, with your bra," said Larocque.

"It's completely false," the woman replied through an interpreter. "I did not hit him upstairs."

Larocque suggested Wednesday the reason she acknowledged not having held onto the bra and the shirt the entire time was because she had actually been hitting him with the bra while she and Brazeau were arguing in the bedroom.

She denied the claim.

The woman, who cannot be identified due to a publication ban, told a different story on

Monday when she told the court he told her to leave his house without letting her dress.

According to her, he struck her from behind, pushed her down the stairs as she held onto the banister, and sexually assaulted her on the main floor that morning.

Several photos showing bruises on her arms and legs as well as scratches on her back were entered as evidence in the trial on Monday.

The woman's bra, ripped shirt, and a pair of her jeans missing a button are also part of the Crown prosecutor's evidence.

Brazeau has pleaded not guilty to his charges of sexual assault and assault, which caused him to be booted from the Conservative caucus.

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U.S. nudged Canada to expand ISIL air campaign, Kenney says

IRAQ MISSION

Expansion would include airstrikes in Syria

The United States made it clear Canada's precision-guided bomb arsenal and expertise would be welcome in Syria, Jason Kenney said Wednesday—a narrow glimmer of clarity in the Harper government's murky reasons for expanding its Middle East campaign to include the war-torn region.

The defence minister would not go so far as to say the Americans asked Canada to expand the scope of its airstrikes outside of Iraq, but did indicate that Washington left the option open for consideration.

"Let me put it this way: We have conversations back and forth and they made it clear that they thought our precision-guided munitions would be helpful," Kenney said.

The U.S. and some of its Arab



The Syrian Embassy sits vacant in Ottawa on Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

allies — notably Jordan and the United Arab Emirates — are already conducting airstrikes in Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Britain, France and Australia are also conducting airstrikes, but not in Syria. The Harper gov-

ernment had initially restricted Canadian warplanes to Iraq only, but that changed Tuesday with the introduction of a motion to expand and extend the mission until March 30, 2016.

Kenney, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson and Prime

Minister Stephen Harper faced a storm of demands Wednesday to justify the bombing of Syria under international law. In the Commons, Harper leaned on the U.S. argument — made to the United Nations — that Syrian dictator Bashar Assad had

“Once again, the government is pursuing this action on exactly the same legal basis as its allies.”

PM Stephen Harper

lost control of his territory, that ISIL represents a clear imminent threat to its neighbours, and that the Iraqi government specifically asked Washington to take action. Kenney took it a step further, saying he has a legal opinion from the military's judge advocate general justifying the airstrikes under Article 51 of the UN charter.

That provision says a country can take individual or collective self-defence action if a member is under armed attack, but the invocation of that clause is usually followed by an international resolution authorizing force.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STRIP CLUBS

Sask. premier cites trafficking concerns as reason for about-face

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says his government is reversing its decision to allow licensed strip clubs because it's concerned about human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

He says he believes it was a mistake to change provincial liquor laws to allow partial stripping in bars.

"If, by this decision, we have inadvertently allowed for even a marginal increase in the chance for human trafficking, it's the wrong decision," Wall said.

Before 2014, Saskatchewan law prevented stripping in venues where alcohol was sold.

Last year, those regulations changed and dancers could strip down to underwear.

Don Verstraeten owns the Codette Hotel near Nipawin, east of Prince Albert, where strip shows have been held since the regulations changed.

"There's no nudity," he said. "You can see more on HBO."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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What kind of personality do you think it takes to thrive in the nightlife industry?

The nightlife industry is a fast paced industry, it always has been, it always will be. No matter what position you're in you're always going to have to make quick decisions under pressure, and they have to be safe and responsible decisions. Of course you also have to be friendly and outgoing. It's a people business.

What originally got you into the industry?

Well my brother and I grew up in the industry. Our parents have owned this restaurant since 1980. They opened up Bottlescrew Bill's next door in 1985. So we grew up in it, we've always been around it. We always chose to be involved.

Have you seen the industry become safer since you've started?

Absolutely on the nightlife side. The industry as a whole has become safer. Social media has totally exploded in recent years. It's given the larger community a bigger and louder voice and establishments have to become accountable to those higher standards. For me I think that higher standards equals fewer problems.

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THE SELF-SURVEILLANCE GENERATION — PART II

The curated teen

**Self-editing and the fear of missing out
are keeping kids plugged in — and on edge**

What does it mean for teens' development when they are constantly glued to social media? One psychologist fears we're raising a generation of anxious, superficial kids. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Marlisa, 17, is standing in her Halifax high school cafeteria with her purse over one shoulder and a binder tucked under her arm. Her eyes are downcast, staring at her phone.

We eventually sit together. "This is my Instagram," she says, proudly.

Most of Marlisa's 28 posts are selfies. Four are posed in front of the same floor-length bedroom mirror. The reflections show her sitting on the side of a bed, with part of a black dress tucked off to the side, exposing the brown skin of her upper thigh.

In every one, her eyes are fixed to the screen, watching herself.

"I want them to see that I'm independent and I don't need anyone to control my life," she tells me.

Experimenting with one's identity has always been a part of adolescence, but today, with the ubiquity of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, this process is now happening online, where teens are able to curate their image finely.

Teens see this as a good thing. In their paper, called *Will the Real Digital Girl Please Stand Up?* Examining the Gap

Between Policy and Dialogue and Girls' Accounts of their Digital Existence, researchers Jane Bailey and Valerie Steeves cite evidence that girls in particular gravitate toward social media because "it gives them control over their image and self-presentation" and lets them explore the adult world without their parents.

But Larry Borins, a clinical psychologist who works with teens in the Toronto area, believes this culture of self-surveillance that social technologies have created is leading to an increasingly anxious, superficial generation.

Self-editing and anxiety

Borins says the power of platforms such as Facebook and Instagram — which act as windows into people's lives, coupled with complex identity-play and a desire to feel connected to friends that defines adolescence — results in an obsession with self-editing.

"They're experimenting, but not really showing their true identity. They're showing only what they want other people to see of them."

This is supported by Bailey and Steeves' paper, which goes on to explain that more important for girls to be seen online, is not to be seen badly.

That means teens dedicate hours to painstakingly man-

age their online selves in ways Borins finds comparable to the condition of cognitive distortion — symptomatic of depression and anxiety.

He says sufferers are constantly comparing themselves against others, filtering out their positive attributes to only focus on the negatives, which are exaggerated and overblown.

Dopamine and the 'like' generation

Marlisa tells me people criticized the photo of her in the black dress.

"A lot of people said I didn't act my age, like I was acting grown-up. And I didn't take that as offence — I was like, 'OK, well that's a good thing.'"

Scrolling through her photos, another catches my attention: Marlisa standing in front of a change-room mirror wearing a teal bra and underwear.

I ask what she's thinking about when she posts these images.

"How many likes I'll get," she replies. "I care for likes, especially comments. If someone's like, 'Oh my God, you're pretty,' that makes me feel good."

This makes sense to Borins, who says shots of the happy chemical dopamine are released in our brains every time

we receive a like or even an email notification.

And as humans, we are instinctively searching for that next dopamine rush — a new Facebook friend request, a like on Instagram or retweet on Twitter — which is what Borins believes keeps teens constantly checking their phones.

FOMO: Fear of missing out

Esther's eyes widen as she counts the hours she spends on her phone a day.

"Like, 23," the 16-year-old jokes as she swaps glances with her friend Mariam from across the cafeteria table.

Two iPhones rest on the table like centrepieces. Each admits she is addicted; they've been addicted to their phones since Grade 6, in fact. Both struggle to find words when I ask what happens on a day without their phones:

"I feel sick," says Esther. "I'm so used to having it with me all the time that when I won't have it, I feel just like I'm just missing something," Mariam says. "Like even if I'm not using it, I just feel like I need to have it with me in my pocket, in my hand."

Fear of missing out, Borins

says, is contributing to a youth culture where teens are too self-obsessed to learn empathy or how "to step into someone else's shoes."

"We see (pictures of) people at parties that we haven't gone to and all of sudden there is this tremendous sense of not being included, not being in the community that elevates the sense of missing out," he says.

He explains that overwhelming pressure to keep up with online appearances, not to mention dealing with threats

of cyberbullying and harassment, is taking a dangerous toll on teenagers' self-esteem, even causing some to swear off social media all together.

An undocumented future

Borins fears that without some sort of intervention, a generation of self-obsessed teens will only grow up to become "emotionally unavailable" adults.

The culture of instant connectivity threatens to replace real interpersonal skills with those of online or text conversations, he warns, adding that young people are at risk of losing their ability to read social

“

You don't want to be someone ... people don't know. You want to be someone where everyone knows you and they want to get to know you.

Marlisa, 17, a student at a high school in Halifax

“

That project of creating a curated identity is endless.

Matt Johnson, director of education at MediaSmarts, a digital and media literacy group in Canada

39%

A recent survey by MediaSmarts cited that 39 per cent of teens sleep with their phones on so as not to miss out on anything.

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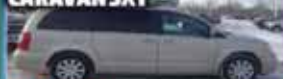
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Knox conviction an error: Lawyer

MURDER TRIAL

Defence argues decision is a distortion of the facts

Amanda Knox's defence lawyer urged Italy's highest court on Wednesday to overturn the American's conviction in the 2007 murder of her British roommate, calling it a "grave judicial error."

Knox faces 28-1/2 years in an Italian jail for the 2007 murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in an apartment they shared in the university



Amanda Knox in New York in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

town of Perugia, after being convicted by a Florence appeals court last year along with her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito.

Sollecito's defence will make its case on Friday, when the case resumes before the Court of Cassation.

Winding up Wednesday's full day of arguments, Knox defence lawyer Carlo Dalla Vedova said the Florence court's conviction of Knox "is not justice, it is a distortion of the facts."

He argued, that based on analysis of blood stains, including two handprints on the victim's pillow, in Kercher's room and elsewhere in the house the two women shared, "there is not one trace of Amanda in the room of the crime."

"We are confronted with a very grave judicial error that must be set right," he said before asking the court to overturn the 2014 guilty verdict.

Knox maintains her innocence. She returned to the United States in 2011 after an earlier appellate court verdict acquitted the pair. She was awaiting the high court's



Raffaele Sollecito, the ex-boyfriend of Amanda Knox, arrives at Italy's highest court building, in Rome, Wednesday. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

decision in her hometown of Seattle, and is "worried, very worried," Dalla Vedova said.

"I don't think she is sleeping much," he added.

Sollecito spent the day in court, joined by family members and supporters. Defendants are not permitted to address the high court. He

remains free but his passport was seized after the Florence court sentenced him to 25 years.

The Cassation Court's options include confirming the guilty verdicts, raising the question of extradition for Knox; overturning the convictions and ordering a third

appeals trial; or overturning the convictions without a new trial, tantamount to acquittal.

Knox and Sollecito were convicted in 2009 of the murder, then acquitted by a Perugia appeals court in 2011. The Court of Cassation, however, threw out the acquittal in a scathing decision, remanding

“

I don't think she is sleeping much.

Amanda Knox's defence lawyer, Carlo Dalla Vedova, on his client's state of mind

the case to a Florence appeals court, which convicted the pair.

The judge who presided over the appeals trial that acquitted the pair said the defendants have been "devastated" by the drawn out, contradictory decisions.

Now retired, Claudio Pratlillo Hellmann, in comments to the Italian news agency ANSA, predicted that the United States wouldn't agree to extradite Knox.

Kercher family lawyer Francesco Maresca said he hoped the Cassation Court would reach a final decision, confirming the verdicts and ending the long legal saga.

"I hope that that family can remember the poor victim outside of the halls of justice after so many years," Maresca said.

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Utah firing squads incite controversy

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Tourism industry fears travellers may go elsewhere

Utah lawmakers say they took a pragmatic approach in approving the firing squad as a form of execution if lethal-injection drugs aren't available.

Their thinking: Develop a backup plan in case a nationwide lethal-drug shortage persists.

But critics say bringing back the firing squad in Utah — the only state to use the method in the past 40 years — could tarnish the state's image with visitors.

Tourism is big business in

Utah, home to world-class ski resorts and spectacular national parks. Travellers spent a record \$7.5 billion in the state in 2013, and tourism dollars are linked to one of every 10 Utah jobs, according to a University of Utah report released this year.

But firing squad executions draw a different kind of attention — one Utah lawmakers decided 11 years ago that the state didn't need. Former state Rep. Sheryl Allen said Tuesday reinstating the firing squad as a backup could once again elicit criticism and give the state a bad reputation.

"I think Utah needs to be concerned. That's not what we want our attention on," said Allen, a Republican who sponsored the 2004 bill that

did away with firing squads as a primary execution method.

Bringing back the method adds fuel to the fire for critics who point to other Utah oddities — such as its strict, sometimes confusing liquor laws — as reasons to steer clear, said David Corsun, director of the University of Denver's Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management.

The firing squad could affect Salt Lake City's position in the competitive and lucrative convention business, Corsun said.

Large associations with members of varied political and social backgrounds try to avoid states where controversial laws recently have passed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This 2010 file photo shows the firing squad execution chamber at the Utah State Prison in Draper, Utah. Utah has passed a law that makes it the only state to employ firing squads if no lethal injection drugs are available for executions. TRENT NELSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

NATIONAL SERVICE

Military brass worried about transgender soldiers: Sources

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has gotten pushback from senior military leaders on whether the Pentagon should lift its ban on transgender people serving in the armed forces, according to officials familiar with the discussions.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Military officials are re-

luctant to publicly discuss their opposition, but much of it centres on questions about where transgender

15,000

The estimated number of transgender people serving in the active duty military or reserves, often in secret but many with the knowledge of their commanders or peers.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

together.

There also are questions about whether the military

troops would be housed, what berthing they would have on ships, which bathrooms they would use, and whether their presence would affect the ability of small units to work well

would conduct or pay for the medical treatment and costs associated with any gender transition, as well as which physical training standards they would be required to meet.

The military has dealt with many similar questions as it integrated the ranks by race, gender and sexual orientation. And in many cases they raised comparable worries about what effect the change would have on the force, including whether it would hinder small units that often have to work together in remote, confined locations for long periods of time.

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NIGERIA

Boko Haram abducts hundreds

Hundreds of civilians, including many children, have been abducted and are being used as human shields by Boko Haram extremists, a top Nigerian official confirmed Wednesday.

The news of the mass kidnappings comes as Nigeria prepares for crucial elections on Saturday.

Several hundred people were taken captive by the Islamic militants as they retreated earlier this month from Damasak in northeastern Nigeria, Mike Omeri, the Nigerian spokesman for the fight against Boko Haram, told The Associated Press Wednesday. He said he could not specify how many were taken captive

but local reports say as many as 500 people were seized.

When troops from Chad and Niger advanced toward Damasak, Boko Haram began taking captives, said Omeri, speaking in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"Boko Haram ... rushed to primary schools they took children and adults that they are using as shields to protect themselves from the menacing advance of troops," said Omeri. "They are being used as shields by Boko Haram."

Damasak, near the border with Niger, was recaptured from Boko Haram on March 16. The kidnappings of civilians has only been confirmed now. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pilot was locked out of cockpit: Report

FLIGHT 9525

Investigators analyze audio from mangled black box

The first half of Germanwings Flight 9525 was chilling in its normalcy. It took off from Barcelona en route to Dueseldorf, climbing up over the Mediterranean and turning over France. The last communication was a routine request to continue on its route.

Minutes later, at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Airbus A320 inexplicably began to descend.

Within 10 minutes it had plunged from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet to just over 6,000 feet and slammed into a remote mountainside.

To find out why, investigators have been analyzing the mangled black box that contains an audio recording from the cockpit. Remi Jouty, the head of France's accident investigation bureau BEA, said Wednesday that it has yielded sounds and voices, but so far not the "slightest explanation" of why the plane crashed, killing all 150 on board.

A newspaper report, however, suggests the audio contains intriguing information at the least: One of the pilots

is heard leaving the cockpit, then banging on the door with increasing urgency in an unsuccessful attempt to get back in.

"The guy outside is knocking lightly on the door and there is no answer," The New York Times quotes an unidentified investigator as saying. "And then he hits the door stronger and no answer. There is never an answer."

Eventually, the newspaper quotes the investigator as saying: "You can hear he is trying to smash the door down."

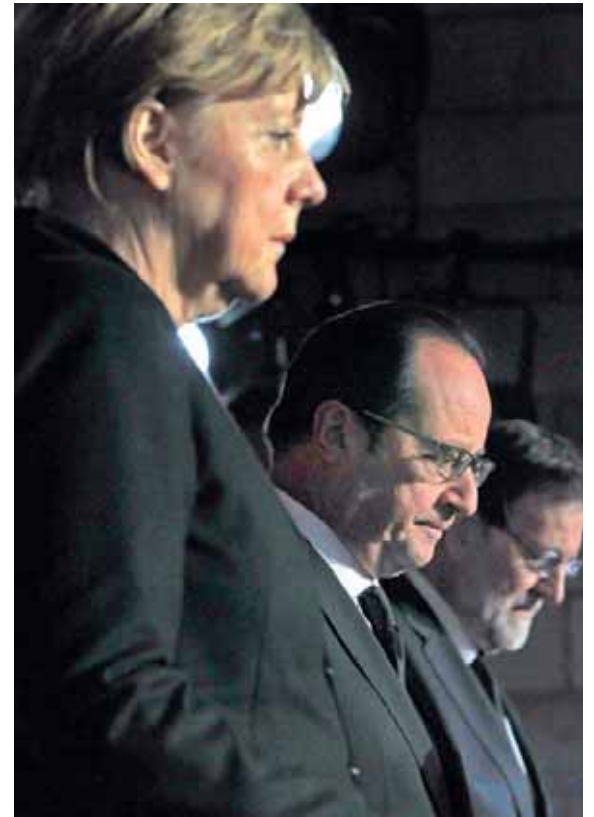
The investigator, whom the newspaper said could not be identified because the investigation is continuing, said

officials don't know why the pilot left. He also does not speculate on why the pilot didn't open the door or make contact with ground control before the crash.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, airlines in the U.S. don't leave one pilot alone in the cockpit. The standard operating procedure is that if one of the pilots leaves — for example to use the bathroom — a flight attendant takes that spot in the cockpit. It was not immediately clear if European airlines have adopted the same practice.

The names of the pilots have not been released.

French officials gave no details from the recording



French President Francois Hollande, center, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy attend a news conference in Seyne-les-Alpes, France, Wednesday after a Germanwings jetliner crashed Tuesday in the French Alps. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150

According to Germanwings, the victims included 72 German citizens, as well as 35 Spaniards, two people each from Australia, Argentina, Iran, Venezuela and one person each from Britain, the Netherlands, Colombia, Mexico, Japan, Denmark, Belgium and Israel.

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Bell slammed over meddling report

BROADCASTING

Bell Media's head allegedly wanted Blais blackballed

Canada's broadcasting regulator has issued a sharply worded reminder to Bell Media that it has a statutory duty not to interfere in the work of its CTV journalists, calling a report of meddling "disturbing."

The warning follows a Globe

and Mail article that says Bell Media president Kevin Crull intervened in how journalists reported a major regulatory decision last week. The decision had not gone the way the corporation had hoped.

The Globe says Crull de-

manded that journalists not give any airtime to Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) chairman Jean-Pierre Blais. CTV president Wendy Freeman is said to have communicated that edict to jour-

nalists, reportedly explaining that she feared for her job.

The Globe report says CTV Ottawa bureau chief Bob Fife, chief anchor Lisa LaFlamme and Freeman, ultimately refused to abide by Crull's edict.

Crull has apologized for in-

truding on the editorial integrity of the CTV's news team. He said he was wrong to try to influence the editorial decisions of CTV journalists and has "apologized to the team directly for this mistake."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OIL INDUSTRY

Think-tank predicts slow crude recovery

The Conference Board of Canada delivered bad news for those hoping that the latest crude oil downturn will create only short-term pain.

The Ottawa-based think-tank predicts that Canada's oil industry will see a 37 per cent drop in revenues, a pre-tax loss of \$3 billion and the 8,000 fewer jobs this year compared with 2014. And the industry is unlikely to bounce back as quickly this time as it did after the last major drop in 2008 and 2009, it said in a report published Wednesday.

Crude prices saw a much more drastic drop the last time around — touching records above \$140 US a barrel





and lows around \$33 US in a half-year span — but by 2011, were back above \$100 US. The U.S. crude benchmark now sits below \$48 US a barrel, compared with \$107 US last June.

"I know it looks rough right now but hopefully by the end of 2015, we start to see prices back towards \$60," Conference Board economist Mike Shaw said.

The Conference Board's outlook through 2019 sees \$80 US oil is the best it gets. The main reason is fracking technology that has helped unleash huge crude volumes from U.S. shale formations — a big contributor to the current slump.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dating site fined

PlentyOfFish has paid a fine of \$48,000 after the CRTC found the online dating website violated its new anti-spam legislation. Complaints alleged PlentyOfFish Media Inc. sent emails that did not have a clearly labelled or easy-to-use unsubscribe option. THE CANADIAN PRESS



TAKEOVER CENTURY-OLD FIRMS MERGE H.J. Heinz is buying Kraft Foods Group, creating one of the world's largest food and beverage companies that will own brands such as Kraft, Heinz and Oscar Mayer. The deal that created the new Kraft Heinz Co., with annual revenue of about \$28 billion US, was engineered by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital, the company behind the takeover of Tim Hortons by Burger King last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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IN BRIEF

Rules for charities unfair

Canada needs to catch up with Europe, Australia, New Zealand and even the United States when it comes to unshackling public policy advocacy by charities, says a report by the University of Victoria's environmental law centre. While businesses are free to deduct the cost of ad campaigns for tax purposes, tax rules for charities are confusing, arbitrary and potentially crippling, says the report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Picasso art up for auction

A radiant masterpiece by Pablo Picasso from the 1950s will lead an auction in May where it could top \$140 million. Women of Algiers (Version O) will be offered at Christie's on May 11. The oil on canvas was part of a 15-work series Picasso created between 1954 and 1955. The hefty pre-sale estimate hovers near the current record for any artwork sold at auction, held by Francis Bacon's triptych Three Studies of Lucian Freud. It sold at Christie's for \$142.4 million in 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDIA

Postmedia cleared to buy Sun papers

Postmedia Network Canada Corp.'s \$316-million deal to buy Sun Media's English-language newspapers and digital properties cleared a key regulatory hurdle Wednesday.

The Competition Bureau approved the deal as it ruled it is unlikely to substantially lessen or prevent competition.

The bureau cited a lack of a close rivalry between Postmedia's broadsheet newspapers and Sun Media's tabloid newspapers.

The regulator also said the media company will want to keep readers and maintain editorial quality to attract advertisers to its newspapers.

Postmedia already has one

of Canada's largest chains of daily newspapers including the National Post and dailies in Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The deal, announced last year, will add 175 newspapers and publications, including the Sun chain of daily newspapers as well as the London Free Press and the 24 Hours free dailies in Toronto and Vancouver.

The sale also includes the Canoe web portal in English Canada, part of the national sales team based in Toronto, Quebecor's Islington printing plant in Ontario and 34 real estate properties in Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Gay hair sweater? 'Hello?! Holocaust!' I'm pretty sure I yelled that in the newsroom.

There is a room at Auschwitz filled with piles and piles of human hair, braided or coiled into balls. I stood there five years ago in horror.

It's all I could think of when I first saw what's been dubbed the "gay sweater," unveiled this week in Toronto. The bulky, brownish sweater is knitted entirely of hair from gay people's heads.

By making something literally from gay people, the sweater's creators hope to underline that people, not things, are gay, and that the phrase "that's so gay" is always homophobic. But that wasn't the first message I got.

"Hello?! Holocaust!" I'm pretty sure I yelled that in the newsroom.

The Nazis harvested their victims' hair and sold it to companies, which used it for mattress stuffing, carpets, and socks. The creators of the sweater were either ignorant of the similarities and symbolism, I figured, or too arrogant to care. As upset as I was, I'm now guessing it's not as angry as gay people in California (or anywhere else) might be this week. A lawyer there is trying to pass a ballot measure that would make it legal to shoot them, point blank, for being gay. The Sodomite Suppression Act calls gayness an "abominable crime" that will bring "God's just wrath." To prevent that, it demands "any person who willingly touches another person of the same gender for purposes of sexual

gratification be put to death by bullets to the head or by any other convenient method."

Long pause. No, this is not actually going to become law. But in the meantime, it's generating headlines. Just like the gay sweater. And I can't stop thinking of Auschwitz and that room.

Jeremy Dias has also stood there. He's the founder of the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity, which is behind the gay sweater project. He remembered how "among the failing colours of the hair this one piece of red hair was just so striking" that he and others burst into tears when they saw it. Dias had considered that some people might see a resemblance, but his project is nothing like what happened at Auschwitz, he said. By making that association, he argued, I was proving his point: Perhaps I didn't even think to get upset about the ubiquitous "that's so gay" because I've come to accept it as part of the way people speak. He's wrong. I do not think "that's so gay" is acceptable. But I might have come to expect it.

I'm also not being threatened with murder in California, however theoretical. Nor am I likely to be attacked for holding my boyfriend's hand here in Canada. The gay sweater is provocative on purpose in an effort to end hate. And in the context of that battle, my discomfort matters far less.

the big number

39%

Percentage of Canadians aged 18 to 24 who vote, according to a study by Samara. The study says youth drive down overall voter turnout, and are increasingly less likely to ever start voting.

Banks are designing our homes, and not for the better



ON ARCHITECTURE
Alexander Josephson

One of the upshots of the real estate boom over the last decade is that Canadians have, for better or worse, become armchair connoisseurs of design.

We hear people talking at dinner parties about how recladding a house in COR-TEN steel panels, upgrading kitchen counters with Corian, or adding an egg tub to a bathroom will increase their property values.

While these makeovers may have short-term pay-offs, they reflect a Canadian predicament: People are focused on renovations, not architecture.

Since 2008, our banks have become famous for playing it safe. What many people don't realize, however, is the extent to which banks, in all their cautious

glory, are influencing the design process.

As a result, Canadians' design dreams are getting stuck in second gear and architects looked upon as a luxury instead of a vital investment.

Whether you're a growing family, value sustainability, or cherish state-of-the-art design, people want architecture to be responsive to their tastes and lifestyles.

Say you decide to renovate or want to build anew. You need money.

But what you quickly realize in meeting with your mortgage specialist is that the bank is only willing to take you half the way home.

Canadian banks will typically finance 40 to 60 per cent of a property's value for renovation or rebuilding, depending on your personal circumstances.

At the end of the day, many successful younger Canadians are discovering

that even with great jobs, good credit, and existing home ownership, you need savings, lines of credit, high-interest personal

The 25-year mortgage is dictating a calibre of architecture the general public can ill afford.

loans, and — for the lucky bunch — generous parents to help square the costs.

Put another way, Mike Holmes has a prime-time empire precisely because it's too prohibitive to build comprehensive projects the first time around without exceeding available resources.

Sound design is a casualty of a chicken-and-egg tango between banks and real estate markets, neither of

which are willing to invest.

It is this cycle — more so than permitting or building codes — that drives the quality and esthetics of Canadian residential architecture and is fostering a culture of compromise.

In many cases, unless you miraculously find a pot of gold to build what you really want, people have no choice but to accept lower price-tag, construction-grade builds.

Essentially, bankers are designing our homes, and the 25-year mortgage is dictating a calibre of architecture the general public can ill afford.

We need to look beyond the tips of our Corian countertops and start seeing architecture as a long-term investment.

Alexander Josephson is co-founder of PARTISANS Architecture and a lecturer at the University of Toronto Daniels School of Architecture.



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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan





Throw out the little black dress

TORONTO FASHION WEEK

Narces brings whimsy and luxurious fun to evening wear

Narces brought the party to the runway with a new collection punctuated by playful patterns, cute cocktail dresses and fanciful frocks.

"There's always an undertone of not-so-serious, have fun with your evening wear, enjoy what you're wearing," de-

signer Nikki Wirthensohn said backstage at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week on Tuesday.

"This was kind of the height of being whimsical and ... bringing out the sense of humour, I guess, in how you can dress."

Red-lip prints dotted on sumptuous short-sleeved dresses were the perfect embodiment of the collection's flirty, feminine and formal style fusion.

The spectrum of designs encompassed everything from flowing baby doll dresses to body-hugging sheaths.

Full-length dresses were richly adorned with swathes of strategically

placed sequins, lace and embellishments. A luxurious jumpsuit was also showcased in the range.



There's always an undertone of not-so-serious, have fun with your evening wear, enjoy what you're wearing

Designer Nikki Wirthensohn

FASHION NOTES

Designer Sunny Fong on the dot with new collection for VAWK

Sunny Fong made a colourful return to the runway at World MasterCard Fashion Week on Tuesday with his fall-winter collection for VAWK, awash in vibrant shades.

Fong draws on '60s style influences and the pop art of late American icon Roy Lichtenstein for his new range.

Fong said the running theme



for his new line is the dot, encompassing everything from buttons on beautifully structured coats to the shapes of the creations themselves.

The inspiration does indeed come full circle within the Dot Du Jour line, with the spherical shapes evident in the sculptural sleeved tops and voluminous skirts featured in the collection. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The new line featured a palette of black, ivory, gold, silver, red and a combination of black and ivory in organza, lace, laser-cut satin, stretch knit, mesh and tulle.

Wirthensohn said she was inspired by the work of Japanese artist Sachiko Kodama's ferrofluid art.

The process involves the use of a liquid (ferrofluid) that becomes highly magnetized with the presence of a magnetic field and forms a moving sculpture.

"We've got lots of dresses where the body is kind of forming that magnetic field." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Magnetic field: Models walk the runway for the Narces collection during Toronto Fashion Week.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Get mixing with Mad Men

What the Mad Men — and women — drink says a lot. With the final episodes of the season set to begin April 5 on AMC, we toast these characters with some signature cocktails from the '60s. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;PHOTOS: AMC/LIONSGATE



VODKA GIMLET

Betty's break

This is Betty's signature drink and would most likely have been made with half vodka, half Rose's West India Sweetened Lime Juice served over ice. When the Cuban missile crisis looms and there's trouble in her marriage to Don, Betty orders a gimlet at a bar before engaging in a backroom tryst with a stranger.



OLD FASHIONED

Don's drink

Back then this would have been made with a cheap, blended whisky, possibly Don's favourite — Canadian Club. Start with a sugar cube and a few drops of bitters and muddle in a cherry and orange wedge, adding the whisky and possibly a lemon wedge garnish. These days, bartenders use a good bourbon or rye and add just a dash of sugar and bitters.



DRY MARTINI

Just for Joan

The show's second season picked up in 1962, the year Dr No informed the world James Bond drank a vodka — as opposed a gin — martini, shaken and not stirred. A traditional approach is 2 ounces vodka, 1/3 ounce dry vermouth, olive garnish. Unflappable Joan likely wouldn't care if it's shaken or stirred — and if you're serving this over ice, it doesn't really matter.

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Tokyo men one step ahead of style



A Tokyo Fashion Week guest dons a jacket by Dissborn, shoes by Dr. Martens and hat by Kenzo. GETTY IMAGES

MENSWEAR

Future of men's fashion lives in Japan's striking streetstyle

Feminine glamour may turn the most heads at fashion weeks in New York or Paris, but in Tokyo it is the style-conscious men who set the sartorial trends.

From sharp futurism to wool-and-denim casuals, the finale of Tokyo Fashion Week earlier this month put the spotlight largely on menswear, aiming to promote the most dynamic area of Japanese clothes design.

"What happens here is probably the future of men's fashion," said Antonio Cristaudo from Pitti Immagine, a collection of fashion industry events in Italy.

"There's individuality, they want to be different," he told AFP. "It's important for all the fashion world to see what's happening in Japan."

Such innovation is nowhere more evident than on the streets of Tokyo, from the vintage and skater styles of Ura-Hara to the slick suits of the Marunouchi business district.

With sharp tailoring and eye-catching accessories, from hats and bags to shiny shoes, the get-up of Tokyo gents is striking to the first-time visitor.

"The menswear is just so much more exciting than womenswear here," said Mi-sha Janette, an American fashion journalist based in Tokyo, who suggested the tendency for women to cover up meant

their clothes could be "a bit shapeless."

For the men, meanwhile, "it's OK to do your hair, be into fashion, use skincare," Janette said. "They like to be proper in Japan."

Although Tokyo's dandies shine at home and start trends that travel abroad, the success of Japan's own designers has been limited overseas.

The industry is now try-

ing to change that with the new Tokyo Fashion Awards, backed by the city government, which push homegrown brands to emulate their leading lights such as Junya Watanabe and Rei Kawakubo, founder of Comme des Garçons.

The awards jury chose six brands, predominantly menswear-focused, which were

seen to have international potential. The winners held a showroom at Paris Fashion Week this year and presented their autumn/winter collections in Tokyo on Saturday. AFP

Glasses, shirt, tie, waistcoat and suit by Thom Browne at Shibuya Hikarie in Tokyo. GETTY IMAGES

FASHION NOTES

Emerging designer returns to runway as startup winner

After earning a lucrative emerging designer prize at World MasterCard Fashion Week, Sid Neigum returned to the Toronto runway on Monday with a fully produced show and a \$30,000 bursary, giving his brand a welcome cash boost.

In 2012, the Toronto-based designer won the Toronto Fashion Incubator's New Labels contest and \$25,000 cash.

Neigum earned an additional \$2,500 last October for another victory tied to the startup contest by designing a winning outfit inspired by Minnie Mouse.

His line is now being carried by Hudson's Bay Co.'s luxury department The Room and Toronto boutique Jonathan+Olivia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sid Neigum
THE CANADIAN PRESS

East meets West in cool looks from Pink Tartan

Womenswear label Pink Tartan channelled international influences for its latest cool weather looks.

"I felt this is a really East meets West moment," head designer Kimberley Newport-Mimran said in a backstage interview at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week on Monday.

Pink Tartan unveiled a range of cosy, snuggle-worthy textured knits and furs, paired alongside garments with relaxed kimono sleeves and tie-front detailing.

The designer cited a new outerwear piece as key for fall-winter. Pink Tartan had no shortage

of fresh takes on cool-weather toppers, including shaggy furs and multi-pocketed coats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A Pink Tartan cool-weather look. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Books from beyond the grave

READING

Anticipated releases from dead authors are all the rage

Mike Dojc
For Metro

Despite new releases coming down the pipe by adored and still-kicking scribes like Toni Morrison and Jonathan Franzen, the most hotly awaited fiction releases in the next 12 months come courtesy of stone-cold dead literary lions.

Publishers have unearthed and dusted off previously unseen books by beat generation icon

Jack Kerouac, rhyme maestro Dr. Seuss, and if the rumours bear out, even more new work by high school English teacher favourite, J.D. Salinger.

But, if these manuscripts weren't published during their author's lifetime, might that not have been on purpose, and do publishers have any misgivings about potentially disrespecting late writers' wishes?

"That's a big question," concedes Jean Bernier, editor at Les Éditions du Boréal, the Montreal publishing house releasing *La vie est d'hommage*, a collection of previously unseen French-language Jack Kerouac work.

"Of course we'll never know what the author thinks about that, but if you're someone like Salinger or Kerouac, you're so famous that in part you belong

to the readers, you belong to the history of literature.

"So I don't have any moral qualms (when we are talking about) such important writers — I think it's in the public interest."

Tom Graves, a partner at The Devault-Graves Agency that got the posthumous Salinger train chugging last year when they released *Three Early Stories* is far less diplomatic on the subject.

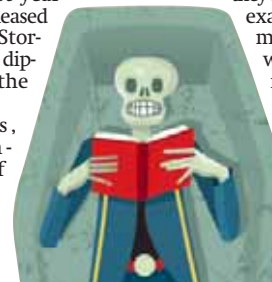
"Authors, schmauthors. Many of them are notoriously nit-witty about their books.

Take J.D. Salinger. Please.

"He wrote in a dungeon for nearly 50 years and wouldn't show his writings to anyone — kept it all in a safe," he says.

"But who knows? Salinger would have really hated the fact we republished three early stories of his, even though they are quite good and are examples of Salinger's muse before he nearly went mad in combat in WWII.

"He was a very changed man after the war and no longer felt his early work had value. I hate to tell him, but he is wrong," adds Graves.



BOOKS

Posthumous releases



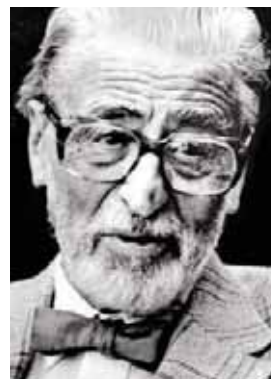
La vie est d'hommage

Kerouac fans are giddy about this collection of texts preserved by Kerouac's brother-in-law, due out in the spring of 2016. The book includes the early '50s novel *La nuit est ma femme* as well a novella titled *Sur le chemin*, which despite translating to *On the Road* differs from the author's career-defining book. The non-profit Library of America will publish the English version.



That Which Does Not Kill

Stieg Larsson wrote three instalments of his Millennium series — a.k.a. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* books — and planned to pen seven more before he died of a heart attack in 2004. Keeping it Swedish, writer David Lagercrantz revives everyone's favourite goth hacker heroine in a new sequel out Sept. 1.



What Pet Should I Get?

The brother-and-sister duo featured in this previously boxed manuscript discovered by Theodore Geisel's widow are the same kid-dos who appear in *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, dating the work from between 1958 and 1962. The rediscovered tome hits shelves July 28 and Random House has teased that there will be even more previously unseen Seuss in store.



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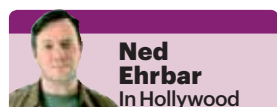
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One Direction loses bad boy Zayn Malik

MUST
READ

MUSIC

The singer is parting ways with the pop group



Ned Ehrbar
In Hollywood

Looks like the stress was more severe than we thought.

Five years after being cobbled together by Simon Cowell on The X Factor, One Direction has gone from a fivesome to a foursome, as Zayn Malik has announced that he is resigning from the hugely successful pop group. Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson, currently on a world tour, will continue as a four-piece. "My life with One Direction has been more than I could ever have imagined," Malik says in a statement. "But, after five years, I feel like it is now the right time for me to leave the band. I'd like to apologize to the fans if I've let anyone down, but I have to do what feels right."



After five years, Zayn Malik is leaving One Direction. ALL AP/GETTY

HIP HOP

Inside the mind of rapper Iggy Azalea

Just in case there were any lingering questions you had about how Iggy Azalea's mind works, Vogue subjected the Australian rapper to a rapid-fire list of 73 questions.

How they landed on 73 as a number is beyond me, but hey, the more you know.

For instance, her favourite TV show is Game of Thrones,



and her superpower of choice is invisibility. And she loves tacos, because clearly she's a human being.

But some of the information she divulges to the magazine is rather revealing: "Four months ago, I got bigger boobs! I'd thought about it my entire life," she says, admitting she didn't initially want to share the information. "But then I decided I wasn't into secret-keeping." Obviously.

MOVIES

Vin Diesel has high hopes for Furious 7

With the seventh film in Fast and Furious franchise set to come out next month and expected to rack up the kind of titanic global success the last few have seen, it's understandable that series star Vin Diesel might be feeling a bit bullish on its prospects.

Maybe too bullish, actually. "Universal is going to have the biggest movie in history with this movie. It will probably win best picture at the Oscars, unless the Oscars don't want to be relevant, ever," Diesel tells Variety. "This will win best picture. There is nothing that will ever



Vin Diesel

come close to the power of this thing." Mr. Diesel, I'm glad you're so pleased with your latest work, but let's temper this excitement a bit, yeah?

DIVORCE

Lena Headey on her split

Lena Headey, who plays reigning Game of Thrones ice queen Cersei Lannister, is a lot more emotionally open in real life, especially when it comes to discussing her 2012 divorce from Peter Loughran. "It's tough," she tells More magazine. "There's a lot of hurt and sadness and disappointment. Grief. It's a mourning process, and yet nobody's died." That's some impressive eloquence, right there.



FAN DRAMA

Rowling wins again



J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling wins the Internet once again, this time by calmly shutting down a reader who took issue with the fact that one of her characters, Dumbledore, is gay. "Thank you so much for writing Harry Potter," the fan tweeted. "I wonder why you said that Dumbledore is a gay because I can't see him in that way." Rowling, understandably good with words, offered back a simple: "Maybe because gay people just look like ... people?"

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Perplexing warning

Economists are confident that our lending systems are strong

Brent Jolly
For Metro

Although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently sounded warning bells regarding the Canadian housing market, economists believe its concerns are being overplayed and should have little bearing on Canadian homebuyers and owners.

Earlier this month, the IMF released a research note that expressed unease with recent policy changes made by the federal government to help tighten mortgage lending rules and financial oversight.

"I find it perplexing," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist with Dominion Lending Centres (DLC).

"Without question, Canada has a stronger regulatory system (post-2008 financial crisis) than in any country in the world. If it isn't broke then why should we fix it?"

In its note, the IMF said Canada should consider con-

solidating its oversight of the financial system into a single body in order to "strengthen accountability and reinforce policy-makers' ability to identify and respond to future potential crises."

Currently, the regulation of Canada's system is overseen by a combination of different bodies, which include the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), the Department of Finance, and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC).

Benjamin Reitzes, a senior economist and vice-president of economic research with BMO Capital Markets, is not convinced by the IMF's call for reform. Like Cooper, Reitzes said Canadian lending standards are strong and there is a high threshold for consumers to cross before being approved for a mortgage.

Dovetailing their anxiety about Canada's regulatory environment, the IMF has reiterated its concern regarding Canadians' high lev-



Canadian economists believe the International Monetary Fund's concerns are being overplayed and should have little bearing on homebuyers and owners. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



The net worth and the debt-to-asset levels of Canadians are very strong right now.

Peter Norman, chief economist with Altus Group

els of household debt, which currently sits at about \$1.63 against every \$1 of income earned.

On the surface, this comparison creates a "visceral" reaction, said Peter Norman,

chief economist with Altus Group, but it should not cause Canadians to lose much sleep. This is because the IMF's calculation does not include household assets, he said.

"The net worth and the debt-

to-asset levels of Canadians are very strong right now," Norman said.

This research note marks the second time in three months that the IMF has shone its spotlight on the issue of housing in Canada. In January, the organization issued a report that warned the Canadian real estate market could be overheated by anywhere from seven to 20 per cent, a claim that has been disputed by many industry experts.

STRATEGY

Gathering intelligence will pay off in long run

For some, the declaration to "do your homework" might bring back haunting memories of grade school. However, it is a strategy that could pay big dividends when the time comes to renew a mortgage.

"Not completing the proper legwork will do a major disservice to your wallet," said Robert McLister, founder of RateSpy.com, an online Canadian mortgage comparison site. "The more intelligence you can gather, the more likely your chances are of finding the best deal."

In addition to taking the proper time to compare rates from various financial institutions, McLister recommended investing time in searching to find the right professional to help with the renewal process.

He said that negotiating a mortgage is a complex process and working with a professional can help simplify the many layers of legal and contractual nuance. This is important, he said, because not every mortgage product is one size fits all.

For example, McLister said many deep-discount rate products have terms and conditions associated with them that could prevent borrowers from acquiring a future line of credit or that limits one's prepayment privileges.

David Fleming, a Toronto-based sales representative with Bosley Real Estate, said consumers should not be convinced that the lowest rate on a product will always provide them with the best deal over the long term.

Before signing, he said consumers must examine the agreement's terms and conditions.

"Not properly examining these small details could be financially crippling to consumers that will take out their entire return."

With the recent announcement that the Bank of Montreal and TD Bank are lowering their five-year fixed mortgage rate to 2.79 per cent, Fleming said consumers should consider locking in now.

"Don't get greedy. It is ludicrous how low the rates are right now. Still, there are some consumers out there who are sticking to a variable rate (mortgage) because they think there is still money on the table to be made. That's a big gamble."

BRENT JOLLY/FOR METRO

From homeowner to cottage dweller

Camilla Cornell
For Metro

When Mike Bayer purchased Seabreeze, his two-bedroom cottage on Lake Ontario in 2010, he was well aware that he might have to do some dancing to get financing.

Bayer was still in his 20s at the time, but he had been in the vacation rental business for several years as a rental agent and through his blog (cottageblogger.com), which offers advice on renting your recreational property.

Bayer knew from experience that lenders often view recreational homes as inherently more risky, so both your down payment and the interest rate you are offered may be higher than for a permanent residence.

"The feeling is, if a borrower gets into some financial difficulties, they will place more importance on paying the mortgage on their primary residence," said Janine Weis, a mortgage agent with Mortgage Intelligence in London, Ont.



The Bayer family understood that mortgages and financing are different for cottages than family dwellings, including down payments and interest rates. CONTRIBUTED

In addition, she said, under slow market conditions, cottages can take longer to sell, so lenders may fear that their interests aren't protected.

If you are considering buy-

ing a cottage you should probably visit your financial institution first to find out how much you can afford and get some pointers on what to look for, said Maureen Reid, a branch

manager with Meridian Credit Union in Penetanguishene, Ont.

"There are different types of financing based on the type of cottage you're going to purchase," she said.

Like most lenders, for instance, Meridian differentiates between cottages that have plenty of amenities and are easily accessible, usable year-round and more centrally located, often with other cottages around (Type A), and cottages that are more remote and rustic, perhaps only accessible by boat and usable only in the summer (Type B).

Since Type A properties have features that are similar to a residential home, "folks might get the same rate they would on their home mortgage," Reid said. "The five-year fixed rate today with Meridian is at 2.89 per cent."

Type B properties would require a different kind of financing.

"Then you need to get a personal loan with open terms and loan rates," she said. "So the interest rates are higher — at five per cent and above."

Reid added that, as a rule of thumb, you would require 20 per cent down to buy a Type A property, but on a remote property, you would require you to put down closer to 35 per cent.



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metro Spring Fun

Thursday, March 26, 2015



By starting early on those summer jobs — such as renovation or gardening projects — you will avoid the trap of “failing to plan means planning to fail.” SHUTTERSTOCK

Get a head start with your plans

Peter McKinnon
For Metro

For those who have had more than their fair share of winter fun, spring is the ideal time to plan. By starting early on those summer jobs — such as renovation or gardening projects — you will avoid the trap of “failing to plan means planning to fail.”

UNDERSTAND PRIORITIES

According to the Canadian Home Builders' Association, one of the most common mistakes homeowners make when it comes to renovation projects is ignoring their long-term plans, such as how long they intend to stay in the home and how their family will change over the next five to 10 years. Make a list of the changes you expect in your life and then de-

termine what projects can best accommodate those changes. There is little sense in investing in that man cave if you expect to have children in a few years, for instance.

ESTABLISH GOALS

Know exactly what you want the project to achieve. Is it more storage space in the kitchen? A teenager's bedroom in the basement? If you think of the

project in terms of the problems you hope to solve — and explain it to others that way — you are more likely to come up with an appropriate solution.

THINK GREEN

Canadian summers are short enough as it is — by getting a jump on outdoor projects, you will have that much more time to enjoy time in the yard. Visit your local hardware store for

help planning that new deck or fence. Make a list of what you would like to plant in the garden — perhaps start a few seeds (bedding plants, vegetables) indoors. When the nice weather finally comes, be ready to make the most of it.

CONSULT CONTRACTORS

If you wait until May or June, many contractors will be too busy to give you a quote, let

alone do the job. Suddenly, that project you wanted done in the summer is put off until September or later. A good contractor will also be willing to discuss what projects might need to be done over the next five to 10 years. Be prepared to make trade-offs between short-term improvements made for the sake of lifestyle and those projects needed to keep your home in good shape over the long haul.

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Between sunrise, sunset

In Christian lands, spring was long known simply as Lent — the time before Easter devoted to sacrifices such as fasting. Starting in the 1500s, writers began to use the word “springing time” to describe plants emerging from the soil. By the 1700s, this had been shortened to “spring.”

Spring, of course, is linked to an astronomical event; it begins when there are exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. In the Northern Hemi-

sphere, this occurs March 20. The technical term is “vernal equinox.” Word nerds might like to know that equinox is from a Latin word meaning “equality between day and night.”

Many ancient cultures celebrated astronomical events such as the vernal equinox. The ancient Egyptians, for instance, positioned the Great Sphinx to face directly into the rising sun on the morning of the vernal equinox.

A monument erected by the Mayans at Chichen Itza also marks this special day. As the sun sets, the shadow cast by the El Castillo pyramid creates the image of a descending snake, supposedly the feather serpent god Kukulcan.

In the modern era, most living on the northern half of the globe appreciate the start of warmer temperatures as the Earth’s axis tilts toward the sun.

PETER MCKINNON/FOR METRO



Spring, of course, is linked to an astronomical event; it begins when there are exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. SHUTTERSTOCK



A hike or bike ride is a great way to usher in spring. SHUTTERSTOCK

Spring flings for the family

Peter McKinnon
For Metro

As a particularly cold winter slowly begins to release its grip, energy levels tend to rise among youngsters and oldsters alike. Finding a focus or release for that energy can be a challenge, particularly for children and teens.

Here are a few ideas for dealing with spring fever:

GET OUTDOORS

As the weather warms up, signs of spring begin to emerge — crocuses poke their heads through the snow, tree buds thicken, rivers swell with water, songbirds return to local parks and forests. A hike is the best way to experience the emergence of spring. Heed the call of the wild and get outdoors, even if you have to bundle up and pull on hiking boots. Check with parks in your area to see what’s open.

STAY INDOORS

A visit to the local rink may also be in order. With minor hockey leagues approaching the end of playoffs, ice time suddenly become available. Check if your municipality

CELEBRATE

Butterfield Acres kicks off Easter celebrations early this year with a series of events this weekend. Next weekend, there are several great options, including special programming at Telus Spark on both days, and at Mount Norquay on Easter Sunday. You might also take advantage of free admission to several city pools on Easter weekend.

puts on extra public skating sessions, or simply organize a skating or shinny party with family and friends. Put on a pot of chilli, and get people to bring over their favourite munchies afterwards.

Another great way to indulge in spring fever is to try a new activity. Has your family ever bowled together? How about bouncing on an indoor trampoline? Many schools rent out gym space for games of ball hockey, basketball, volleyball or other sports. A final option is an outing to a local pool (wave pools and indoor water parks are especially popular with the younger set).

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MAR THU26 FRI27 SAT28 SUN29



What they're asking

Townhouses offer a great alternative to conventional, single-family homes. And they're not all in the deep suburbs. You can buy one a mere 10-minute commute from downtown — a great value and convenience if you work in the city. Metro takes a look at some new and resale townhouses near the core of Canadian cities.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER FOR METRO



\$659,900

Calgary

This condo-style townhouse at 1804 23 Ave. SW in the popular Bankview neighbourhood of Calgary, has three storeys and attached garage with an asking price of \$659,900, reflecting the size of the home with three bedrooms and four baths. The oil downturn has affected certain suburbs, Malick says, "But if it's a good home, it goes quickly." Malick is an agent with Re/Max Real Estate (Central), 403-216-1600.



\$388,395

Winnipeg

Here's a brand new, four-unit, luxury townhouse development at 604 Jessie Ave. — in Winnipeg's Crescentwood community — listed for \$388,395. Corydon Avenue is the place to be, says listing agent Darryl Walsh. The unit features an open-concept interior and private deck and yard, with two bedrooms and two bathrooms on two levels. Walsh works with Royal LePage Dynamic Real Estate, 204-989-5000.



\$579,000

Toronto

This spacious, two-storey, freehold townhouse at 265 Milan St., shows that you can still find a good deal on a townhouse in T.O. just outside the core. The property is listed for \$579,000 in the Moss Park area. It has a walk score of 97. Features include a bi-level living area, two-plus-one bedrooms, two baths, 12-foot ceilings and a gas fireplace. Listing agent Cesario Sousa is with Royal LePage Supreme Realty, 416-535-8000.



\$668,000

Vancouver

Next to Toronto, Vancouver is Canada's highest-priced market, although you can still get good value like this downtown luxury resale townhouse at 1060 Seymour St. Asking price is \$668,000 and includes a private entrance and a split-level, two bedroom, two bathroom layout. The building is less than 10 years old, with 1,100 sq. ft. of living space. Listing agent is Harry Kramm with Sotheby's International Realty Canada, 778-374-3100.



\$324,900

Halifax

The Homes of Long Lake Village are a collection of custom-built townhouses and detached homes, located next to Long Lake Provincial Park. This unit at 628 Cowie Hill Rd., is listed for \$324,900. The two-storey home has three bedrooms and four bathrooms. Listing agent Andrew MacDormand is with Royal LePage Atlantic, 902-453-1700.



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Karl Lohnes



Whether it's a lakeside house or a cabin in the woods, everyone loves to escape the city in the spring. Whatever your preferred retreat, a guest or family room is the perfect place to create that home-away-from-home feeling

GRAIN POWER

Into the woods

Simple, rustic and natural are the elements that remind me of a cabin in the woods. Recycled, hand-painted and finishes with a patina set the tone for cabin chic.



Basic elements create stylish storage in the cabin. Rus wall shelf, \$69, UrbanBarn.com

Faux wood print napkins and tablecloth, from \$5, Simons.ca



Anchor away! Burlap cushions with anchors, \$30, Homesense.ca



Rope knot table lamp base, \$150, PotteryBarn.com

SPLISH SPLASH

Waterside

Think navy, white and sand incorporating motifs of rope, green glass and whitewashed everything to create a bright and casual environment.

ALPINE AWAY

Mountain high

From summer chalets to lodges, there's a grandeur in stone fireplaces, hunt club trophies and leather furnishings surrounded by mountain views and babbling brooks.

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



Horn-inspired dinnerware. Ralph Lauren's Gwyneth 5-piece dinnerware, \$150, TheBay.com



Even the deer get dressed up for a visit to the chateau. Mr. Wapiti kitchen towel, \$14, Simons.ca

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STOCK# CH158320	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH159778	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH159823	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH160479	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH162192	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH163492	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH163403	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH174259	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH175161	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH174686	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH175166	WAS: \$38,591	NOW: \$29,116
STOCK# CH208726	WAS: \$34,697	NOW: \$31,447
STOCK# CH208726	WAS: \$40,659	NOW: \$37,409



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Bring the cottage into your home

COTTAGE LIVING

Cabin Pressure stars Colin and Justin share tips to spruce up your space

Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan's latest foray into cottage renovation proved significantly tougher than the first.

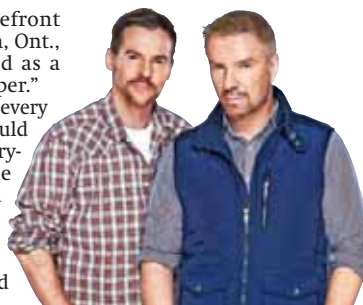
The Scottish design duo documented their transformation of an A-frame log cabin in "essentially good condition" in the debut season of Colin and Justin's Cabin Pressure. The series airs Sunday at 9 p.m. ET on Cottage Life.

Season 2 sees the pair reno-

vate a tiny rustic lakefront property in Haliburton, Ont., which Ryan described as a "really rough fixer-upper."

"We had to deal with every type of problem you could imagine," he said. "Everything went wrong. The house had been infested by every type of entomological creature."

"We found dead mice. We found dead



beavers. We found dead animals everywhere. Pigeons, birds, the lot. Raccoons, everything."

"However, we love the challenge more than anything that we do in our professional lives. We love the drive to beautify."

The duo acknowledged that not everyone wants or aspires to live in cottage country. But McAllister and Ryan said there are decorative tips homeowners can apply to their homes away from home, as well as city dwellings.



Get rid of the things you don't like, things that annoy you, things that are broken.

Justin Ryan

and I think that's what it's all about for us."

4. Transform existing pieces

Items that seemed destined for the dumpster could have a second life, provided homeowners are willing to use a little imagination — and some elbow grease. "You can then look at the pieces that remain and think to yourself: 'OK, maybe I can use that table in that room. Maybe a lick of paint can transform that into something else,'" McAllister said.

5. Incorporate natural elements

"We've used birch bark that we've found lying on the forest floor. (When) framed, it looks gorgeous," said Ryan. "We've found old pieces of timber lying in the water, like driftwood, that we've brought in that we've mounted on casters. Hey, presto! An instant coffee table."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1. Clean house

"Get rid of the things you don't like, things that annoy you, things that are broken. You're never going to use these items," said McAllister.

2. Create a design plan

"The mantra we say time and time again: to fail to plan is to plan to fail," said Ryan. In addition to having a budget and list of tasks that need to be accomplished, he suggested combing magazines or watching TV for creative inspiration, then assembling a mood board to help zero in on a design direction.

3. Seek out vintage finds

Ryan said garage sales and thrift stores are ripe sources for items that can be reinvented. "We find amazing things that we can repurpose,



Justin Ryan (left) and Colin McAllister star in Cabin Pressure. CONTRIBUTED

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IN BRIEF

Raptors gored by Bulls but advance to playoffs

Greivis Vasquez poured in 22 points on Wednesday, but it wasn't enough to lift the Toronto Raptors past the Chicago Bulls in a 116-103 loss.

Toronto would have officially clinched a playoff spot with a victory, but it wasn't to be on a night the Raptors fell apart down the stretch. The Raptors clinched their second-consecutive playoff berth later in the night, thanks to the Boston Celtics' loss to Miami. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal judge denies NHL motion to dismiss lawsuit

The NHL's motion to dismiss a class-action lawsuit brought by former players over concussion-related injuries was largely rejected Wednesday by a federal judge, allowing the claims to move forward.

The plaintiffs have been seeking unspecified financial damages and medical monitoring for neurological disorders. They've argued the league had the knowledge and resources to better prevent head trauma, failed to warn players properly of such risks and promoted violent play that led to their injuries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Desperate times for Kings

NHL

L.A. looks to turn the corner into playoff position

Justin Williams has his name on the Stanley Cup three times and won the Conn Smythe Trophy last spring in leading the Los Angeles Kings past the New York Rangers.

With that in the past, the impending unrestricted free agent who earned the reluctant moniker of "Mr. Game 7" is more concerned about the playoff games he and the Kings might not get to play next month.

"My focus is straight ahead right on this team and not having that sticker next to your name as the Stanley Cup champs that didn't qualify for the playoffs the next season," Williams said.

Despite winning the first two games of their road trip, the Kings woke up Wednesday out of a playoff position in the competitive Western Conference. Desperation seems to suit this team well, and players are confident they'll get the job done and get in.

"Everybody realizes that we play the best hockey when we're desperate and when we have a lot



Kings defenceman Jake Muzzin, not shown, scores on Rangers goalie Cam Talbot during a 4-2 win in New York, Tuesday.

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

of emotions poured into games," centre Anze Kopitar said. "It's to that point in the season standings-wise and points-wise that we have to have better games."

The Kings beat the New Jersey Devils and New York Rangers on back-to-back nights in rematches of the 2012 and 2014 Stanley Cup final. They visit the New York



I would much rather be at 100 points by now.

Kings forward Justin Williams

Islanders on Thursday before seeing the red-hot Minnesota Wild and 2013 Cup-champion Chicago Blackhawks to finish out their trip.

Defenceman Drew Doughty said he and his teammates are treating the rest of the regular season like the playoffs.

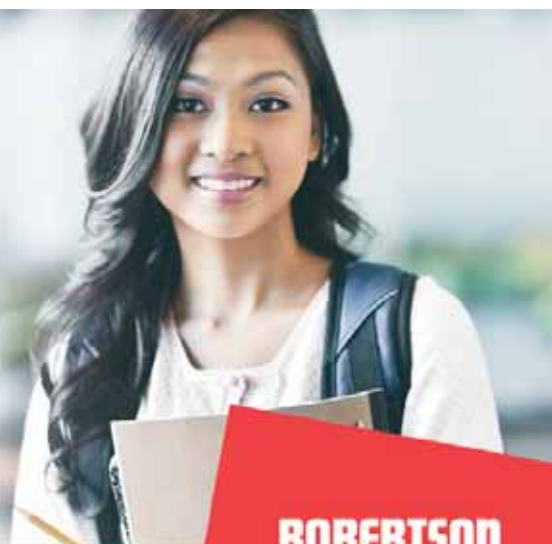
"It's just different, for sure," he

said. "When (in the) playoffs, the intensity picks up because if you lose you're going home and no one wants to go home. So that's the way we've got to look at it: We're going home if we don't win all these games, and we've got to treat every single game that way, and if we do I think we'll win a lot." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Sens' Andrew Hammond has risen to prominence during Ottawa's unreal run since mid-February.

JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY, GETTY IMAGES

Hammond owns his net

HOCKEY

Rookie goalie key to Sens' defensive improvement

There's no denying Andrew Hammond has been instrumental to the Ottawa Senators' surge in the standings this past month. His supporting cast can't be overlooked either.

Ottawa has gone 15-1-1 since Hammond took over in the Senators net on Feb. 18, moving into the second and final wild card playoff spot in the Eastern Conference on Monday.

Over that course the 27-year-old rookie has gone 14-0-1 in his first 15 NHL starts. A point Thursday would tie Patrick Lalime's team record for longest start without a regulation loss. Lalime, who was on hand for Ottawa's practice Wednesday, was 14-0-2 with Pittsburgh in 1996-97.

"I'm not really paying too

much attention to what records are going on," said Hammond. "I'm just most proud that we've been able to get back in the playoffs and that's something that I think a lot of people counted us out and for us to kind of show the character that we did to take these long steps back is something the whole team can be proud of."

Defensively the Senators have improved overall, due in great part to Hammond. Through the past 21 games Ottawa has allowed 46 goals, whereas in its previous 20, it had given up 58.

"You couldn't ask for better production, with all the young defence we have," said defence-man Marc Methot. "With (assistant captain Chris) Phillips out, we have an extremely young defence corps. The guys are contributing, with all the responsibility they have."

Just as notable has been the play of Mark Stone, Mika Zibanejad, Erik Karlsson and Kyle Turris, to name a few.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIFA

Canada may bid for men's World Cup

Canada will still be thinking World Cup once the women's showcase tournament ends July 5. The Canadian Soccer Association will then turn its attention to the 2026 men's World Cup.

The CSA has already gone on the record in declaring its interest in hosting the men's event, which last took place in CONCACAF, which covers North and Central America and the Caribbean, in 1994 in

the United States.

FIFA's executive committee has now started the ball rolling. The first set of documents asking for declarations of interest will go to the 209 member associations likely in June with a decision on the host country planned for the FIFA Congress in May 2017.

Is it Canada's turn?

"Our focus is on the women's World Cup and executing that because if we don't execute

that it's not going to be a good segue into us looking to bid for 2026," CSA president Victor Montagliani said in an interview Wednesday.

"Once the women's World Cup is over then we'll start looking at 2026 and seeing what we need to do to put together a bid."

Preliminary discussion with various stakeholders have already taken place.

"Obviously there is interest

there," Montagliani said.

Montagliani notes that Canada is the only G-8 nation not to host the World Cup. Come this summer, Canada will have hosted every CONCACAF championship and every FIFA event except for the world futsal, beach and club championships and Confederations Cup.

Should Canada throw its hat in the ring, it will be a solo rather than joint bid, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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IN BRIEF

Pro wrestler died on the job, autopsy finds

An autopsy has found that "lucha libre" wrestler Pedro Aguayo died almost immediately of injuries suffered in the ring over the weekend, Mexican authorities said Wednesday. He was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian basketball team gets World Peace

Former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace has signed for Italian team Pallacanestro Cantu for the remainder of the season. He was playing in the Chinese Basketball Association after a long NBA career.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Prep time: 15
Bake time: 5

This is a great and flavourful vegetarian dish. Chickpeas are loaded with protein and fibre and can reduce bad cholesterol, as well as help to keep your weight in control.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Cut the pita into four wedges, then slice horizontally to make eight wedges. Spray pita wedges with vegetable oil. Sprinkle with chili powder, salt and pepper. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 5 minutes, or just until lightly browned and crisp.

2. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, yogurt, sesame oil, soy sauce and tahini until smooth. Add a little water if too thick. Set aside.

3. On serving platter add chickpeas, tomatoes, cucumber, green onions, cilantro, tahini dressing, salt and pepper. Mix well and serve with pita crisps.

Ingredients

- 1 large whole wheat pita pocket
- 1/8th tsp chili powder
- Salt and pepper
- 1/3 cup low fat mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp low fat yogurt



- 4 tsp sesame oil
- 4 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp tahini sauce
- 1 (15 oz) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 cups cubed plum tomatoes, seeded
- 2 cups cubed English cucumber, skin on
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or mint

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 370
- Protein 12.9 g
- Carbohydrates 59.4 g
- Fibre 6.8 g
- Total fat 10.9 g
- Saturated fat 1.6 g
- Cholesterol 2.6 mg
- Sodium 724 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

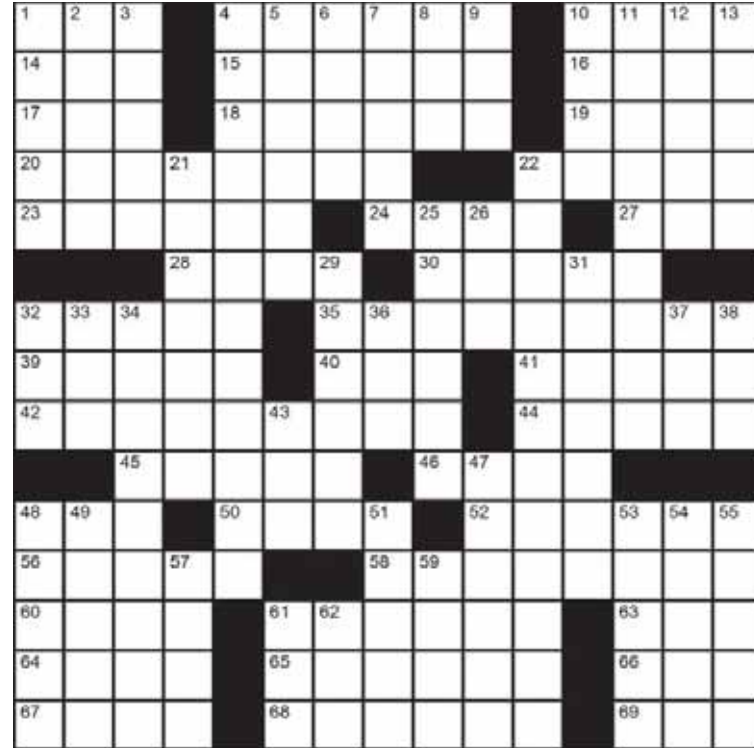
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE
metronews.ca

ACROSS

- Singer, ___. Sure!
- Trapped
- Concert blasters
- Spring mo.
- Time on the job
- Taste: French
- Scissor Sisters singer Ms. Matronic
- Canadian actress Ms. De Carlo
- ___ of Man
- Rotating part of the cutting-a-human-in-half magic trick: 2 wds.
- Leg part
- Stored, as farm fodder
- Shoreline surface sometimes
- Naja Haje
- Ms. Thurman's
- Countrified
- Trendy spot in Calgary, __ Loop
- Enormity
- Monastery boss
- 'Social' suffix
- Actor Alan
- Person of North America, e.g.: acr. + wd.
- Danish physicist Mr. Bohr (b.1885 - d.1962)
- ___ de menthe
- "Ac-Cent-___ Ate the Positive"
- He said/___ said
- Pink: Spanish
- Lobster: French



- Pub orders
- Dart-thrower's target
- Guess Who's
- "Hang ___ Your Life"
- Media giant that owns Paramount Pictures
- Lass
- Shrek's species

- Playing loudly, as music
- Magician's name suffix
- Shortage
- Orchestra instruments
- Web feed syst. for updates

DOWN

- Collect
- Hawaiian-style veranda
- Messy fight
- ___ with Jeanne Beker, new on The Shopping Channel
- Reno's state
- Give ___ (Show approval)
- Old alphabet-ic symbols
- 'East' suffix
- Mr. Brun, cocktail expert on CBC's "Steven and Chris"
- Opposin'
- Jess ___ (Country songstress from Saskatchewan)
- Removes
- Very vertical

- Glassy spot in Lady Gaga's "Born This Way"
- Actor who stars as police officer Nick Barron on Bravo's "19-2": 2 wds.
- Montreal 'money'
- Religious job
- Poses, Tyra Banks style
- Glass-roofed building lobbies
- Egyptian ___ (Cat breed)
- Crunched muscles, for short
- ___ (Corner of Wellington/Simcoe office tower in Toronto)
- Dined
- "Rugrats" character
- Nnnnn
- Texter's point-of-view
- Prefix meaning 'Green'
- Soup-eater's need
- Door part
- Have ___ (Enjoy!)
- Norse sea god
- Gosling and Reynolds
- Eateries, e.g.
- Square-___, as some shoes
- Golden State sch. with a Berkeley campus
- Central-___
- "May ___ excused?" (Supper table request)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will receive the kind of news that that could make you money. The only problem is you don't seem to realize how good it is or how lucrative it could be. Open your eyes.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It is all coming right for you and over the next few days you will benefit in ways you cannot yet imagine. With Venus, your ruler, moving through your birth sign you cannot possibly lose, in love or in luck.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Anyone who thinks you are superficial does not know you very well at all. Over the next few days you will be looking for answers to some of life's really big questions.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to chat with friends and plan social outings. But don't take up too many invitations between now and the weekend. You won't be popular if you have to cancel some of them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are going to be thinking a lot about your work and your reputation over the next few days. But don't make any big decisions concerning your career because even better options will reveal themselves early next week.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If someone says you should not be concerned about what is going on in your social circle you will go out of your way to find out more. What you discover will astound you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have been worrying about your money situation for no good reason and over the next few days you will see solutions where before you saw only problems.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are conflicted whether to get involved in a feud that is not any of your business but which you know you could resolve if people would listen. Go on, take a chance.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a good time to think of ways to reduce your daily chores and also to improve your health. You may not be able to make any major changes for two or three weeks but make plans now.

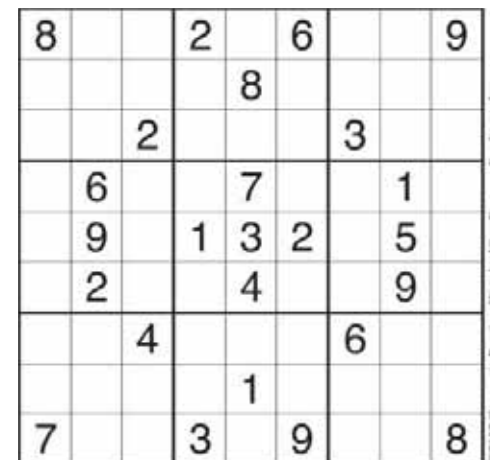
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your confidence is improving and it won't be long before your positive attitude brings positive results. People will sense your self-assurance and want to do things for you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may like to pretend that you are self-sufficient and don't need assistance but you need to be honest with yourself today. If you don't get help with what is bothering you it will get worse.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find it much easier now to express yourself and others will find it easier to understand what you are trying to say. The words will flow.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



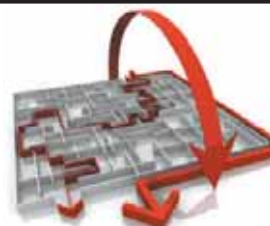
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